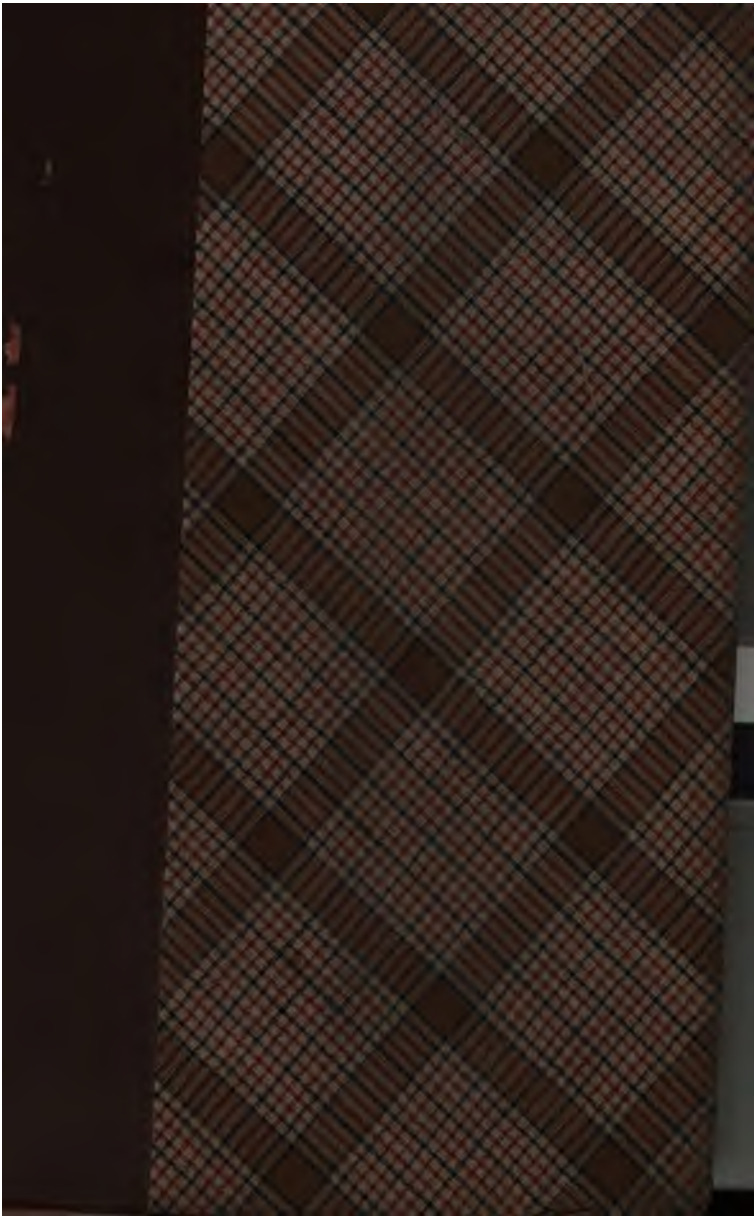

POETRY FOR CHILDREN.

POETRY FOR CHILDREN

BY

CHARLES AND MARY LAMB.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

PRINCE DORUS

AND SOME UNCOLLECTED POEMS BY CHARLES LAMB.

EDITED, PREFACED AND ANNOTATED BY

RICHARD HERNE SHEPHERD.

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
1889

Mary Osgood Fund.

INTRODUCTION.

AMONG the many and great services rendered to the world by William Godwin during his earthly pilgrimage, we may reckon not as the least that lucky inspiration which prompted him, in the early years of this century, to establish a Juvenile Library, first in the name of Thomas Hodgkins in Hanway Street, and afterwards in that of his second wife in Skinner Street, and to issue from it a series of children's books of singular worth and excellence. For the execution of this scheme led him in an early stage of it to invoke the assistance of Charles Lamb and his sister in catering for his youthful clients; and during the years 1806–1811 five successive delightful works were produced by them at his instigation and issued under his auspices, which, it is not too much to say, would probably never have seen the light but for this fortunate and most opportune book-selling project of William Godwin.

The first of these pleasant pieces of task-work (doubly

acceptable as eking out the then slender salary of the brother, and as supplying a very wholesome fillip to the intellectual faculties of his poor sister, her mind having once found its natural bent) was the *Tales from Shakespeare*, commenced in 1806, and published in two volumes, with engravings by Blake after designs by Mulready, in 1807.[1] Although this work bore on the title-page the name of Charles Lamb alone as its author, only six of the tales, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Timon of Athens*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *Othello*, were actually written by him; the remainder were the work of his sister. *The Adventures of Ulysses*,[2] founded on Chapman's fine version of the Odyssey, followed; and this, we believe, was entirely from the hand of Charles Lamb, as it purported to be on the title. The third experiment or venture was a joint production of a different character. *Mrs. Leicester's School*,[3] published anonymously in the winter of 1808, consisted of ten stories in prose, of which three,

[1] *Tales from Shakespeare, designed for the use of Young Persons. By Charles Lamb. Embellished with copper plates. In two volumes*, pp. xii. 235, 261. London. Printed for Thomas Hodgkins at the Juvenile Library, Hanway Street (opposite Soho Square), Oxford Street; and to be had of all booksellers. 1807.

[2] *The Adventures of Ulysses. By Charles Lamb.* London. Published at the Juvenile Library, No. 41, Skinner Street, pp. viii. 148.

[3] *Mrs. Leicester's School; or, the History of Several Young Ladies, related by themselves.* London. Printed for M. J. Godwin, at the Juvenile Library, No. 41, Skinner Street, 1809, pp. 179; Third *Edition, 1810, pp. 180;* Fourth Edition, 1814, pp. 176.

Maria Howe, *Susan Yates*, and *Arabella Hardy*, were written by Charles, and the remaining seven by Mary Lamb.

These three little works, produced in such rapid succession (it should be remembered too that Charles Lamb's admirable *Specimens of Dramatic Poets*, published by another house in 1808,[1] must have been in hand during a part of the time), and affording a salutary intellectual stimulus, and a modest meed of pecuniary profit much needed both by brother and sister, enjoyed a considerable amount of popularity. The least successful of the three was probably *The Adventures of Ulysses;* but the *Tales from Shakespeare* ran through several editions in a few years; and *Mrs. Leicester's School*—the most successful of all—through a still larger number.

Encouraged by the popularity almost immediately achieved by the last-named publication, the Christmas season of 1808 saw Charles and Mary Lamb hard at work on a new joint venture—this time in verse—a series of rhymed fables, stories, and moral precepts for children. These were completed during the following six months, and were published in two tiny 18mo volumes (in the month of June apparently) 1809, under the title of *Poetry for Children, entirely Original. By the Author of Mrs. Leicester's School.* "I shall have to send you, in a week

[1] *Specimens of English Dramatic Poets who lived about the time of Shakespeare, with Notes.* By Charles Lamb. London. Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, Paternoster Row, 1808, pp. vii. 484.

or two," writes Lamb to Coleridge (under date June 7, 1809), "two volumes of Juvenile Poetry, *done by Mary and me within the last six months*, and that tale in prose which Wordsworth so much liked, which was published at Christmas with nine others, by us, and has reached a second edition. There's for you! We have almost worked ourselves out of child's work, and I don't know what to do. . . . I am quite aground for a plan, and I must do something for money. . . . . Our little poems are but humble; but they have no name. You must read them, remembering they were task-work; and perhaps you will admire the number of subjects, all of children, picked out by an old bachelor and an old maid. Many parents would not have found so many." To another correspondent, Manning, Lamb writes early in the following year (January 2, 1810):— "There comes with this two volumes of minor poetry, a sequel to *Mrs. Leicester;* the best," he playfully adds, "you may suppose mine, the next best are my coadjutor's. You may amuse yourself by guessing them out, but I must tell you *mine are but one-third in quantity of the whole.*"

The fate of this book was singular. The whole edition was rapidly sold off, and it went out of print within a short time of its publication, without, however, being reprinted, like its three predecessors. But in two other publications issued from the same Juvenile Library in *1810, and* which passed through innumerable editions

during the lifetime of Lamb and his sister, viz., the *First Book of Poetry*, and *the Poetical Class-Book* of William Frederick Mylius, twenty-six pieces, out of eighty-four which *Poetry for Children* comprises, were inserted, doubtless with the knowledge and consent, but apparently without the active assistance of the writers. Three years after its original publication in London the *Poetry for Children* (or, at least, eighty-one pieces out of the eighty-four) was reprinted in a single volume, across the Atlantic, at Boston in Massachusetts.[1] Neither Charles Lamb nor his sister was ever probably made aware of this fact.

In the meantime in England the book dropped gradually out of sight and knowledge. In 1818, when collecting his "Works," Lamb printed three of his own contributions to it, *The Three Friends*, *Queen Oriana's Dream*, *To a River in which a Child was drowned*, and one only of his sister's, *David in the Cave of Adullam*. Some years afterwards (1822) he reprinted another of his sister's contributions, *The Two Boys*, in his *Detached Thoughts on Books and Reading*.[2] He neglected, however, to keep a

[1] *Poetry for Children, entirely Original. By the author of "Mrs. Liecester's* (sic) *School." Boston: Published by West and Richardson, and Edward Cotton*, 1812, pp. 144 (inclusive of Title and Contents).

[2] This was pointed out more than ten years ago in *Notes and Queries* (3rd S. xii., July 27, 1867, p. 72), by a correspondent dating from Philadelphia, and evidently writing with the American reprint before him. "Charles Lamb's sister Mary," he says, "was the 'quaint poetess' who wrote the verses called *The Two Boys*, quoted in one of his Essays. They are to be found in a volume published

copy of the book, and in 1827 he writes to Bernard Barton, informing him that "*it is not to be had for love or money.*"

Half a century had to elapse before the book which had thus become "introuvable" in the lifetime of its authors, came fairly forth again into the light of human ken. A few years ago attention was gradually drawn to its mysterious disappearance, and curiosity was excited and whetted by the publication in more than one form of such sibylline leaves of the lost book as could be collected from the Mylius Class-Books and other sources.[1] At last, in the earlier half of the present year (1877), there reached us from Adelaide, in South Australia, the two precious though tiny tomes of the original English edition,—a courteous and most welcome gift from the Hon. William Sandover, who purchased them among others at a sale of furniture and books at Plymouth, when on a visit to England in the year 1866.

In July, 1877, there appeared in *The Gentleman's Magazine*[2] a paper descriptive of the book, and con-

early in this century, and entitled Poetry for Children, entirely original. By the author of 'Mrs. Leicester's School.'"

[1] *Poetry for Children. By Charles and Mary Lamb. Edited and Prefaced by Richard Herne Shepherd.* London. B. M. Pickering, 1872. *Mary and Charles Lamb: Poems, Letters, and Remains, now first collected, with Reminiscences and Notes. By W. Carew Hazlitt.* London. Chatto and Windus, 1874, pp. 92-119.

[2] *Vol. ccxli. pp.* 113-122. § *Discovery of Lamb's Poetry for Children.*

taining copious extracts from it. This article, largely quoted by a number of English and American journals, elicited the discovery of two copies of the Boston reprint of *Poetry for Children*, the very existence of which was before unknown. One of these, through the kindness of Dr. E. J. Marsh, of Paterson, New Jersey, now lies before us.

The task of separating the poems of Charles from those of Mary Lamb, will not, perhaps, prove so difficult as it at first appears. Although no indication whatever of separate authorship is given in the volumes themselves, we have our independent knowledge of the mind, work, and individual character of each. We have, moreover, Lamb's distinct assurance in his letter to Manning: "Mine are *but one-third* in quantity of the whole." We have the three poems which he afterwards republished as his own, and the three which he republished or quoted as his sister's, affording an absolute certainty as to the authorship of the six pieces in question, and supplying valuable criteria for the rightful attribution of the others, just as in the joint schoolboy publication of Alfred and Charles Tennyson,[1] similar evidence for separating the poems of one brother from those of the other is afforded by the prize poem of *Timbuctoo*, and the volume of "Poems, chiefly Lyrical," which Alfred Tennyson published in 1829 and 1830, and by the little volume of Sonnets and

[1] Poems by Two Brothers. Louth: Jackson, 1827.

miscellaneous pieces which Charles Tennyson published with his own name at Cambridge in 1830.

It is established by their admission into the body of his collected writings that Charles Lamb was the author of *The Three Friends*, of *Queen Oriana's Dream*, and of the lines *To a River in which a Child was drowned.* The two volumes of the original edition of *Poetry for Children* contain 207 pages of letter-press, of which these three poems cover fourteen pages only. Now a third of 207 pages (according to Cocker) is 69, and Lamb's share was "one-third *in quantity* of the whole." We have therefore to account for some 55 pages more. I venture to suggest the following pieces (occupying 56 pages in the original edition) as not improbably his: *The Reaper's Child*, *The Ride*, *Choosing a Name*, *The New-born Infant*, *Motes in the Sunbeams*, *The Boy and Snake*, *The First of April*, *The Lame Brother*, *Feigned Courage*, *Anger*, *Blindness*, *The Orange*, *the Magpie's Nest*, *The Boy and the Skylark*, *The Men and Women and the Monkeys*, *Love*, *Death*, *and Reputation*, *The Sparrow and the Hen*, *Choosing a Profession*, *Weeding*, *Parental Recollections*, *Nurse Green*, *Clock Striking*, *Why not do it, sir, to-day?* *The Dessert*, *The Fairy*, *The Great-grandfather.* In most if not in all of the pieces enumerated, a deeper and more delicate vein of humor, or a higher touch of pathos and tenderness (not to speak of a skilfuller finish of execution) than is found in the rest of the book, seems *to indicate* the hand of Charles Lamb.

To Mary Lamb we are certainly right in assigning the three poems entitled *The First Tooth*, *The Two Boys*, and *David in the Cave of Adullam*. It is hardly too rash an assumption to conclude that the writer of the last-named poem was the writer also of the previous poem narrating the story of David and Goliath, and also, in all probability, of that *On a Picture of the Finding of Moses by Pharaoh's Daughter*,[1] and of *The Spartan Boy*. These four poems are, in their own manner, as fine as almost anything in the book; but the same praise can in no wise be accorded to the majority of Mary Lamb's other contributions. They are easily distinguished from her brother's by a prevalence of cockney rhymes, of halting metre, and frequently, though not always, of a cut-and-dried morality of which it is impossible to suppose that Charles Lamb could have been capable. We cannot imagine him making "sex" rhyme with "protects," as in *The Duty of a Brother* (p. 50); "withdrawn" with "forlorn," as in *The Rook and the Sparrows* (p. 12), or "Anna" with manner," as in the stanzas on *Incorrect Speaking* (p. 125). At its worst, however, the *Poetry for Children* ranks infinitely higher, both in poetical merit and intellectual outlook, than the similar productions of

[1] Another scriptural poem, "Salome," printed by Lamb as his sister's in his Collected works in 1818, partakes of the same style and manner as the three pieces mentioned above; and we should be inclined to think that it was written for the *Poetry for Children*, and omitted for want of space.

Isaac Watts and of the Taylors of Ongar, which have obtained so world-wide a popularity. The morality, though always apparent, is broader and freer, more wholesome and less obtrusive.

So much may be said for the *Poetry for Children* at its worst; and at its best it reminds us often enough of the Lyrical Ballads of Wordsworth, of whom Lamb and his sister were among the most intimate friends and earliest admirers; and they are almost consciously formed on this model. Here and there, but at long intervals, the influence of Blake's Songs of Innocence may perhaps be traced by those who read with sufficient insight; but there is only one poem that has fully caught the manner and breathes the spirit of Blake; and certainly Blake himself might have written the two stanzas entitled *Motes in the Sunbeams.* But the difference of treatment generally can hardly be better illustrated than by comparing the lines descriptive of the tiger in the poem entitled *The Beasts in the Tower* (p. 131) with Blake's Famous poem of *The Tiger.*

In his letter to Coleridge, advising him of the approaching publication of the *Poetry for Children*, Lamb had, we have seen, declared that he had "almost worked himself out of child's work," and he was "aground for a new plan." One more story, however—a fairy tale in verse, entirely of his own writing—was published at Godwin's Juvenile Library in 1811. *Prince Dorus* is the *last and the least* (though not perhaps the least in merit)

of the series of works written by Lamb and his sister for children. To this humorous little poem there is no allusion in Lamb's published Correspondence, and it has only been discovered to be his by an incidental reference to it in the diary of the late Henry Crabb Robinson (under date May 15, 1811).[1] Through the kindness of Mr. J. C. MacGregor of Kilbride, Dunoon, Argyleshire, we have been enabled to add this interesting and forgotten little piece to the present reprint of the *Poetry for Children*. We have also included some shorter poems by Charles Lamb either recently brought to light, or omitted from our Centenary Edition of his Works published three years ago.

RICHARD HERNE SHEPHERD.

5, HEREFORD SQUARE, BROMPTON.
October, 1877.

[1] Ed. 1869, vol. i. p. 329.

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POETRY FOR CHILDREN,

ENTIRELY ORIGINAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "MRS. LEICESTER'S SCHOOL."

1809.

POETRY FOR CHILDREN.

ENVY.

THIS rose-tree is not made to bear
The violet blue, nor lily fair,
Nor the sweet mignonette:
And if this tree were discontent,
Or wished to change its natural bent,
It all in vain would fret.

And should it fret, you would suppose
It ne'er had seen its own red rose,
Nor after gentle shower
Had ever smelled its rose's scent,
Or it could ne'er be discontent
With its own pretty flower.

Like such a blind and senseless tree
As I've imagined this to be,
    All envious persons are:
With care and culture all may find
Some pretty flower in their own mind,
    Some talent that is rare.

THE REAPER'S CHILD.

If you go to the field where the reapers now bind
The sheaves of ripe corn, there a fine little lass,
Only three months of age, by the hedge-row you'll find,
Left alone by its mother upon the low grass.

While the mother is reaping, the infant is sleeping;
Not the basket that holds the provisions is less
By the hard-working reaper, than this little sleeper,
Regarded, till hunger does on the babe press.

Then it opens its eyes, and it utters loud cries,
Which its hard-working mother afar off will hear;
She comes at its calling, she quiets its squalling,
And feeds it, and leaves it again without fear.

When you were as young as this field-nursèd daughter,
You were fed in the house, and brought up on the knee;
So tenderly watched, thy fond mother thought her
Whole time well bestowed in nursing of thee.

THE RIDE.

LATELY an equipage I overtook,
And helped to lift it o'er a narrow brook.
No horse it had except one boy, who drew
His sister out in it the fields to view.
O happy town-bred girl, in fine chaise going
For the first time to see the green grass growing.
This was the end and purport of the ride
I learned as walking slowly by their side
I heard their conversation. Often she—
"Brother, is this the country that I see?"
The bricks were smoking, and the ground was broke,
There were no signs of verdure when she spoke.
He, as the well-informed delight in chiding
The ignorant, these questions still deriding,
To his good judgment modestly she yields;
Till, brick-kilns past, they reached the open fields.
Then, as with rapturous wonder round she gazes
On the green grass, the buttercups, and daisies,
"This is the country sure enough," she cries;
"Is't not a charming place?" The boy replies,
"We'll go no further." "No," says she, "no need
"No finer place than this can be indeed."
I left them gathering flowers, the happiest pair
That ever London sent to breath the fine fresh air.

THE BUTTERFLY.

SISTER.

Do, my dearest brother John,
Let that butterfly alone.

BROTHER.

What harm now do I do?
You're always making such a noise—

SISTER.

O fie, John; none but naughty boy;
Say such rude words as you.

BROTHER.

Because you're always speaking sharp:
On the same thing you always harp.
A bird one may not catch,
Nor find a nest, nor angle neither,
Nor from the peacock pluck a feather,
But you are on the watch
To moralize and lecture still.

SISTER.

And ever lecture, John, I will,
When such sad things I hear.
But talk not now of what is past;
The moments fly away too fast,
Though endlessly they seem to last
To that poor soul in fear.

BROTHER.

Well, soon (I say) I'll let it loose;
But, sister, you talk like a goose,
There's no soul in a fly.

SISTER.

It has a form and fibres fine,
Were tempered by the hand divine
Who dwells beyond the sky.
Look, brother, you have hurt its wing—
And plainly by its fluttering
You see it's in distress.
Gay painted coxcomb, spangled beau,
A butterfly is called, you know,
That's always in full dress:
The finest gentleman of all
Insects he is—he gave a ball,
You know the poet wrote.

Let's fancy this the very same,
And then you'll own you've been to blame
To spoil his silken coat.

BROTHER.

Your dancing, spangled, powdered beau,
Look, through the air I've let him go:
And now we're friends again.
As sure as he is in the air,
From this time, Ann, I will take care,
And try to be humane.

THE PEACH.

MAMMA gave us a single peach,
She shared it among seven;
Now you may think that unto each
But a small piece was given.

Yet though each share was very small,
We owned when it was eaten,
Being so little for us all
Did its fine flavor heighten.

The tear was in our parent's eye,
It seemed quite out of season;
When we asked wherefore she did cry,
She thus explained the reason:—

"The cause, my children, I may say,
Was joy, and not dejection;
The peach, which made you all so gay,
Gave rise to this reflection:

"It's many a mother's lot to share,
Seven hungry children viewing,
A morsel of the coarsest fare,
As I this peach was doing."

CHOOSING A NAME.

I HAVE got a new-born sister;
I was nigh the first that kissed her.
When the nursing woman brought her
To papa, his infant daughter,
How papa's dear eyes did glisten!—
She will shortly be to christen;
And papa has made the offer,
I shall have the naming of her.

Now I wonder what would please her,
Charlotte, Julia, or Louisa.
Ann and Mary, they're too common;
Joan's too formal for a woman;
Jane's a prettier name beside;
But we had a Jane that died.
They would say if 'twas Rebecca,
That she was a little Quaker.
Edith's pretty, but that looks
Better in old English books;
Ellen's left off long ago;
Blanche is out of fashion now.

None that I have named as yet
Are so good as Margaret.
Emily is neat and fine.
What do you think of Caroline?
How I'm puzzled and perplext
What to choose or think of next!
I am in a little fever.
Lest the name that I shall give her
Should disgrace her or defame her,
I will leave papa to name her.

CRUMBS TO THE BIRDS.

A BIRD appears a thoughtless thing,
He's ever living on the wing,
And keeps up such a carolling,
That little else to do but sing
A man would guess had he.

No doubt he has his little cares,
And very hard he often fares,
The which so patiently he bears,
That, listening to those cheerful airs,
Who knows but he may be

In want of his next meal of seeds?
I think for *that* his sweet song pleads.
If so, his pretty art succeeds.
I'll scatter there among the weeds
All the small crumbs I see.

THE ROOK AND THE SPARROWS.

A LITTLE boy with crumbs of bread
Many a hungry sparrow fed.
It was a child of little sense,
Who this kind bounty did dispense;
For suddenly it was withdrawn,
And all the birds were left forlorn,
In a hard time of frost and snow,
Not knowing where for food to go.
He would no longer give them bread,
Because he had observed (he said)
That sometimes to the window came
A great black bird, a rook by name,
And took away a small bird's share.
So foolish Henry did not care
What became of the great rook,
That from the little sparrows took,
Now and then, as 'twere by stealth,
A part of their abundant wealth;
Nor ever more would feed his sparrows.
Thus. ignorance a kind heart narrows.
I wish I had been there, I would

Have told the child, rooks live by food
In the same way that sparrows do.
I also would have told him too,
Birds act by instinct, and ne'er can
Attain the rectitude of man.
Nay that even, when distress
Does on poor human nature press,
We need not be too strict in seeing
The failings of a fellow being.

DISCONTENT AND QUARRELLING.

JANE.

Miss Lydia every day is drest
Better than I am in my best
White cambric-muslin frock.
I wish I had one made of clear
Worked lawn, or leno very dear.—
And then my heart is broke

Almost to think how cheap my doll
Was bought, when hers cost—yes, cost full
A pound, it did, my brother;
Nor has she had it weeks quite five,
Yet, 'tis as true as I'm alive,
She's soon to have another.

ROBERT.

O mother, hear my sister Jane,
How foolishly she does complain,
And tease herself for nought.
But 'tis the way of all her sex,
Thus foolishly themselves to vex.
Envy's a female fault.

JANE.

O brother Robert, say not so;
It is not very long ago,
Ah! brother, you've forgot,
When speaking of a boy you knew,
Remember how you said that you
Envied his happy lot.

ROBERT.

Let's see, what were the words I spoke?
Why, may be I was half in joke—
May be I just might say—
Besides that was not half so bad;
For, Jane, I only said he had
More time than I to play.

JANE.

O *may be*, *may be*, very well:
And may be, brother, I don't tell
Tales to mamma like you.

MOTHER.

O cease your wrangling, cease, my dears;
You would not wake a mother's fears
Thus, if you better knew.

REPENTANCE AND RECONCILIATION.

JANE.

MAMMA is displeased and looks very grave,
And I own, brother, I was to blame
Just now when I told her I wanted to have,
Like Miss Lydia, a very fine *name.*
'Twas foolish, for, Robert, Jane sounds very well,
When mamma says, "I love my good Jane."
I've been lately so naughty, I hardly can tell
If she ever will say so again.

ROBERT.

We are each of us foolish, and each of us young,
And often in fault and to blame.
Jane, yesterday I was too free with my tongue,
I acknowledge it now to my shame.
For a speech in my good mother's hearing I made,
Which reflected upon her whole sex;
And now like you, Jenny, I am much afraid
That this might my dear mother vex.

JANE.

But yet, brother Robert, 'twas not quite so bad
As that naughty reflection of mine,
When I grumbled because Liddy Bellenger had
Dolls and dresses expensive and fine.
For then 'twas of her, her own self, I complained;
Since mamma does provide all I have.

MOTHER.

Your repentance, my children, I see is unfeigned,
You are now my good Robert, and now my good Jane;
And if you will never be naughty again,
Your fond mother will never look grave.

NEATNESS IN APPAREL.

In your garb and outward clothing
A reservèd plainness use;
By their neatness more distinguished
Than the brightness of their hues.

All the colors in the rainbow
Serve to spread the peacock's train;
Half the lustre of his feathers
Would turn twenty coxcombs vain.

Yet the swan that swims in rivers,
Pleases the judicious sight;
Who, of brighter colors heedless,
Trusts alone to simple white.

Yet all other hues comparèd
With his whiteness, show amiss;
And the peacock's coat of colors
Like a fool's coat looks by his.

THE NEW-BORN INFANT.

WHETHER beneath sweet beds of roses,
As foolish little Ann supposes,
The spirit of a babe reposes
Before it to the body come;
Or, as philosophy more wise
Thinks it descendeth from the skies,—
We know the babe's now in the room

And that is all which is quite clear
Even to philosophy, my dear.
The God that made us can alone
Reveal from whence a spirit's brought
Into young life, to light, and thought;
And this the wisest man must own.

We'll now talk of the babe's surprise,
When first he opens his new eyes,
And first receives delicious food.
Before the age of six or seven,
To mortal children is not given
Much reason; or I think he would

(And very naturally) wonder
What happy star he was born under,
That he should be the only care
Of the dear sweet-food-giving lady,
Who fondly calls him her own baby,
Her darling hope, her infant heir.

MOTES IN THE SUNBEAMS.

THE motes up and down in the sun
  Ever restlessly moving we see;
Whereas the great mountains stand still,
  Unless terrible earthquakes there be.

If these atoms that move up and down
  Were as useful as restless they are,
Than a mountain I rather would be
  A mote in the sunbeam so fair.

THE BOY AND THE SNAKE.

HENRY was every morning fed
With a full mess of milk and bread.
One day the boy his breakfast took
And eat it by a purling brook
Which through his mother's orchard ran.
From that time ever when he can
Escape his mother's eye, he there
Takes his food in th' open air.
Finding the child delight to eat
Abroad, and make the grass his seat,
His mother lets him have his way.
With free leave Henry every day
Thither repairs, until she heard
Him talking of a fine *grey bird.*
This pretty bird, he said, indeed,
Came every day with him to feed,
And it loved him, and loved his milk,
And it was smooth and soft like silk.
His mother thought she'd go and see
What sort of bird this same might be.
So the next morn she follows Harry,
And carefully she sees him carry

Through the long grass his heaped-up mess.
What was her terror and distress,
When she saw the infant take
His bread and milk close to a snake!
Upon the grass he spreads his feast,
And sits down by his frightful guest,
Who had waited for the treat;
And now they both begin to eat.
Fond mother! shriek not, O beware
The least small noise, O have a care—
The least small noise that may be made,
The wily snake will be afraid—
If he hear the lightest sound,
He will inflict th' envenomed wound.
She speaks not, moves not, scarce does breathe,
As she stands the trees beneath;
No sound she utters; and she soon
Sees the child lift up its spoon,
And tap the snake upon the head,
Fearless of harm; and then he said,
As speaking to familiar mate,
"Keep on your own side, do, Grey Pate;"
The snake then to the other side,
As one rebukèd seems to glide;
And now again advancing nigh,
Again she hears the infant cry,
Tapping the snake, "Keep further, do;
Mind, Grey Pate, what I say to you."

The danger's o'er—she sees the boy
(O what a change from fear to joy!)
Rise and bid the snake "good-bye;"
Says he, "Our breakfast's done, and I
Will come again to-morrow day:"
Then, lightly tripping, ran away.

THE FIRST TOOTH.

SISTER.

THROUGH the house what busy joy,
Just because the infant boy
Has a tiny tooth to show.
I have got a double row,
All as white, and all as small;
Yet no one cares for mine at all.
He can say but half a word,
Yet that single sound's preferred
To all the words that I can say
In the longest summer day.
He cannot walk, yet if he put
With mimic motion out his foot,
As if he thought he were advancing,
It's prized more than my best dancing.

BROTHER.

Sister, I know, you jesting are,
Yet O! of jealousy beware.
If the smallest seed should be
In your mind of jealousy,

It will spring, and it will shoot,
Till it bear the baneful fruit.
I remember you, my dear,
Young as is this infant here.
There was not a tooth of those
Your pretty even ivory rows,
But as anxiously was watched,
Till it burst its shell new hatched,
As if it a Phœnix were,
Or some other wonder rare.
So when you began to walk—
So when you began to talk—
As now, the same encomiums past.
'Tis not fitting this should last
Longer than our infant days;
A child is fed with milk and praise.

TO A RIVER
IN WHICH A CHILD WAS DROWNED.

SMILING river, smiling river,
On thy bosom sunbeams play:
Though they're fleeting and retreating,
Thou hast more deceit than they.

In thy channel, in thy channel,
Choked with ooze and gravelly stones,
Deep immersèd, and unhearsèd,
Lies young Edward's corse: his bones

Ever whitening, ever whitening,
As thy waves against them dash;
What thy torrent in the current
Swallowed, now it helps to wash.

As if senseless, as if senseless
Things had feelings in this case;
What so blindly, and unkindly,
It destroyed, it now does grace.

THE FIRST OF APRIL.

"TELL me what is the reason you hang down your head?
From your blushes I plainly discern
You have done something wrong. Ere you go up to bed,
I desire that the truth I may learn."

"O mamma, I have longed to confess all the day
What an ill-natured thing I have done;
I persuaded myself it was only in play,
But such play I in future will shun.

"The least of the ladies that live at the school,
Her whose eyes are so pretty and blue,
Ah! would you believe it? an April fool
I have made her, and called her so too.

"Yet the words almost choked me; and, as I spoke low,
I have hopes that she might them not hear.
I had wrapped up some rubbish in paper, and so,
The instant the school-girls drew near,

"I presented it with a fine bow to the child,
And much her acceptance I pressed;
When she took it, and thanked me, and gratefully smiled,
I never felt half so distressed.

"No doubt she concluded some sweetmeats were there,
For the paper was white and quite clean,
And folded up neatly, as if with great care.
O what a rude boy I have been!

"Ever since I've been thinking how vexed she will be,
Ever since I've done nothing but grieve.
If a thousand young ladies a-walking I see,
I will never another deceive."

CLEANLINESS.

COME, my little Robert, near—
Fie! what filthy hands are here—
Who that e'er could understand
The rare structure of a hand,
With its branching fingers fine,
Work itself of hands divine,
Strong, yet delicately knit,
For ten thousand uses fit,
Overlaid with so clear skin,
You may see the blood within,
And the curious palm, disposed
In such lines, some have supposed
You may read the fortunes there
By the figures that appear,—
Who this hand would choose to cover
With a crust of dirt all over,
Till it looked in hue and shape
Like the fore-foot of an ape?
Man or boy that works or plays
In the fields or the highways,

May, without offence or hurt,
From the soil contract a dirt,
Which the next clear spring or river
Washes out and out for ever—
But to cherish stains impure
Soil deliberate to endure,
On the skin to fix a stain
Till it works into the grain,
Argues a degenerate mind,
Sordid, slothful, ill inclined,
Wanting in that self-respect,
Which does virtue best protect.

All-endearing cleanliness,
Virtue next to godliness,
Easiest, cheapest, needfull'st duty,
To the body health and beauty,
Who that's human would refuse it,
When a little water does it?

THE LAME BROTHER.

My parents sleep both in one grave;
  My only friend's a brother.
The dearest things upon the earth
  We are to one another.

A fine stout boy I knew him once,
  With active form and limb;
Whene'er he leaped, or jumped, or ran,
  O I was proud of him!

He leaped too far, he got a hurt,
  He now does limping go.—
When I think on his active days,
  My heart is full of woe.

He leans on me when we to school
  Do every morning walk;
I cheer him on his weary way,
  He loves to hear my talk:

The theme of which is mostly this,
What things he once could do.
He listens pleased—then sadly says,
"Sister, I lean on you."

Then I reply, "Indeed you're not
Scarce any weight at all.—
And let us now still younger years
To memory recall.

"Led by your little elder hand,
I learned to walk alone;
Careful you used to be of me,
My little brother John.

"How often, when my young feet tired,
You've carried me a mile!—
And still together we can sit,
And rest a little while.

"For our kind master never minds,
If we're the very last;
He bids us never tire ourselves
With walking on too fast."

GOING INTO BREECHES.

Joy to Philip, he this day
Has his long coats cast away,
And (the childish season gone)
Puts the manly breeches on.
Officer on gay parade,
Red-coat in his first cockade,
Bridegroom in his wedding trim,
Birthday beau surpassing him,
Never did with conscious gait
Strut about in half the state,
Or the pride (yet free from sin)
Of my little MANIKIN:
Never was there pride, or bliss,
Half so rational as his.
Sashes, frocks, to those that need 'em—
Philip's limbs have got their freedom—
He can run, or he can ride,
And do twenty things beside,
Which his petticoats forbad:
Is he not a happy lad?
Now he's under other banners,
He must leave his former manners;

Bid adieu to female games,
And forget their very names,
Puss-in-corners, hide-and-seek,
Sports for girls and punies weak!
Baste-the-bear he now may play at,
Leap-frog, foot-ball, sport away at,
Show his strength and skill at cricket,
Mark his distance, pitch his wicket,
Run about in winter's snow
Till his cheeks and fingers glow,
Climb a tree, or scale a wall,
Without any fear to fall.
If he get a hurt or bruise,
To complain he must refuse,
Though the anguish and the smart
Go unto his little heart,
He must have his courage ready,
Keep his voice and visage steady,
Brace his eye-balls stiff as drum,
That a tear may never come,
And his grief must only speak
From the color in his cheek.
This and more he must endure,
Hero he in miniature!
This and more must now be done
Now the breeches are put on.

NURSING.

O HUSH, my little baby brother;
  Sleep, my love, upon my knee.
What though, dear child, we've lost our mother;
  That can never trouble thee.

You are but ten weeks old to-morrow;
  What can you know of our loss?
The house is full enough of sorrow.
  Little baby, don't be cross.

Peace, cry not so, my dearest love;
  Hush, my baby-bird, lie still.—
He's quiet now, he does not move,
  Fast asleep is little Will.

My only solace, only joy,
  Since the sad day I lost my mother,
Is nursing her own Willy boy,
  My little orphan brother.

THE TEXT.

ONE Sunday eve a grave old man,
Who had not been at church, did say,
"Eliza, tell me, if you can,
What text our Doctor took to-day."

She hung her head, she blushed for shame,
One single word she did not know,
Nor verse nor chapter she could name,
Her silent blushes told him so.

Again said he, "My little maid,
What in the sermon did you hear?
Come tell me that, for that may aid
Me to find out the text, my dear."

A tear stole down each blushing cheek,
She wished she better had attended;
She sobbing said, when she could speak,
She heard not till 'twas almost ended.

"Ah! little heedless one, why what
Could you be thinking on? 'tis clear
Some foolish fancies must have got
Possession of your head, my dear.

"What thoughts were they, Eliza, tell,
Nor seek from me the truth to smother."—
"O I remember very well,
I whispered something to my brother.

"I said, 'Be friends with me, dear Will;'
We quarrelled, sir, at the church door,—
Though he cried, 'Hush, don't speak, be still,'
Yet I repeated these words o'er

"Seven or eight times, I have no doubt.
But here comes William, and if he
The good things he has heard about
Forgets too, sir, the fault's in me."

"No, sir," said William, "though perplext
And much disturbed by my sister,
I in this matter of the text,
I thank my memory, can assist her.

"I have, and pride myself on having,
A more retentive head than she."—
Then gracefully his right hand waving,
He with no little vanity

Recited gospel, chapter, verse—
I should be loath to spoil in metre
All the good words he did rehearse,
As spoken by our Lord to Peter.

But surely never words from heaven
Of peace and love more full descended;
That we should seventy times seven
Forgive our brother that offended.

In every point of view he placed it,
As he the Doctor's self had been,
With emphasis and action graced it:
But from his self-conceit 'twas seen

Who had brought home the words, and who had
A little on the meaning thought;
Eliza now the old man knew had
Learned that which William never caught.

Without impeaching William's merit,
His head but served him for the letter;
Hers, missed the words, but kept the spirit;
Her memory to her heart was debtor.

THE END OF MAY.

"Our governess is not in school,
So we may talk a bit;
Sit down upon this little stool,
Come, little Mary, sit:

"And, my dear playmate, tell me why
In dismal black you're drest?
Why does the tear stand in your eye?
With sobs why heaves your breast?

"When we're in grief, it gives relief
Our sorrows to impart;
When you've told why, my dear, you cry,
'Twill ease your little heart."

"O, it is trouble very bad
Which causes me to weep;
All last night long we were so sad,
Not one of us could sleep.

" Beyond the seas my father went,
'Twas very long ago;
And he last week a letter sent
(I told you so, you know)

" That he was safe in Portsmouth bay,
And we should see him soon,
Either the latter end of May,
Or by the first of June.

" The end of May was yesterday,
We all expected him;
And in our best clothes we were dressed,
Susan, and I, and Jim.

" O how my poor dear mother smiled,
And clapped her hands for joy;
She said to me, ' Come here, my child,
And Susan, and my boy.

" ' Come all, and let us think,' said she,
' What we can do to please
Your father, for to-day will he
Come home from off the seas.

"'That you have won, my dear young son,
A prize at school, we'll tell,
Because you can, my little man,
In writing all excel:

"'And you have made a poem, nearly
All of your own invention:
Will not your father love you dearly
When this to him I mention?

"'Your sister Mary, she can say
Your poetry by heart;
And to repeat your verses may
Be little Mary's part.

"'Susan, for you, I'll say you do
Your needlework with care,
And stitch so true the wristbands new
Dear father's soon to wear!'

"'O hark!' said James; 'I hear one speak;
'Tis like a seaman's voice.'—
Our mother gave a joyful shriek;
How did we all rejoice!

"'My husband's come!' 'My father's here!'
But O, alas, it was not so;
It was not as we said:
A stranger seaman did appear,
On his rough cheek there stood a tear,
For he brought to us a tale of woe,—
Our father dear was dead."

FEIGNED COURAGE.

HORATIO, of ideal courage vain,
Was flourishing in air his father's cane,
And, as the fumes of valor swelled his pate,
Now thought himself *this* hero, and now *that:*
"And now," he cried, "I will Achilles be;
My sword I brandish; see, the Trojans flee.
Now I'll be Hector, when his angry blade
A lane through heaps of slaughtered Grecians made!
And now by deeds still braver I'll evince
I am no less than Edward the Black Prince.—
Give way, ye coward French—" As thus he spoke,
And aimed in fancy a sufficient stroke
To fix the fate of Cressy or Poictiers
(The Muse relates the hero's fate with tears),
He struck his milk-white hand against a nail,
Sees his own blood and feels his courage fail.
Ah! where is now that boasted valor flown,
That in the tented field so late was shown?
Achilles weeps, great Hector hangs the head,
And the Black Prince goes whimpering to bed.

THE BROKEN DOLL.

An infant is a selfish sprite;
But what of that? the sweet delight
Which from participation springs,
Is quite unknown to these young things.
We elder children then will smile
At our dear little John awhile,
And bear with him, until he see
There is a sweet felicity
In pleasing more than only one
Dear little craving selfish John.

He laughs, and thinks it a fine joke,
That he our new wax doll has broke.
Anger will never teach him better;
We will the spirit and the letter
Of courtesy to him display
By taking in a friendly way
These baby frolics; till he learn
True sport from mischief to discern.

Reproof a parent's province is:
A sister's discipline is this;
By studied kindness to effect
A little brother's young respect.
What is a doll? a fragile toy.
What is its loss? if the dear boy,
Who half perceives he's done amiss,
Retain impression of the kiss
That followed instant on his cheek;
If the kind, loving words we speak
Of "Never mind it," "We forgive,"—
If these in his short memory live
Only, perchance, for half a day—
Who minds a doll—if that should lay
The first impression in his mind
That sisters are to brothers kind?
For thus the broken doll may prove
Foundation to fraternal love.

THE DUTY OF A BROTHER.

WHY on your sister do you look,
  Octavius, with an eye of scorn,
As scarce her presence you could brook?—
  Under one roof you both were born.

Why when she gently proffers speech,
  Do you ungently turn your head?
Since the same sire gave life to each;
  With the same milk ye both were fed.

Such treatment to a female, though
  A perfect stranger she might be,
From you would most unmanly show;
  In you to her 'tis worse to see.

When any ill-bred boys offend her,
  Showing their manhood by their sneers,
It is your business to defend her
  'Gainst their united taunts and jeers.

And not to join the illiberal crew
In their contempt of female merit;
What's bad enough in them, from you
Is want of goodness, want of spirit.

What if your rougher out-door sports
Her less robustious spirits daunt;
And if she join not the resorts
Where you and your wild playmates haunt:

Her milder province is at home;
When your diversions have an end,
When over-toiled from play you come,
You'll find in her an in-doors friend.

Leave not your sister to another;
As long as both of you reside
In the same house, who but her brother
Should point her books, her studies guide?

If Nature, who allots our cup,
Than her has made you stronger, wiser;
It is that you, as you grow up,
Should be her champion, her adviser.

It is the law that hand intends
  Which framed diversity of sex;
The man the woman still defends,
  The manly boy the girl protects.

WASPS IN A GARDEN.

THE wall-trees are laden with fruit;
The grape, and the plum, and the pear,
The peach and the nectarine, to suit
Every taste, in abundance are there.

Yet all are not welcome to taste
These kind bounties of Nature; for one
From her open-spread table must haste
To make room for a more favored son:

As that wasp will soon sadly perceive,
Who has feasted awhile on a plum;
And, his thirst thinking now to relieve,
For a sweet liquid draught he is come.

He peeps in the narrow-mouthed glass,
Which depends from a branch of the tree;
He ventures to creep down,—alas!
To be drowned in that delicate sea.

"Ah say," my dear friend, "is it right
These glass bottles are hung upon trees?
Midst a scene of inviting delight
Should we find such mementos as these?"

"From such sights," said my friend, "we may draw
A lesson, for look at that bee;
Compared with the wasp which you saw,
He will teach us what we ought to be.

"He in safety industriously plies
His sweet honest work all the day,
Then home with his earnings he flies;
Nor in thieving his time wastes away."—

"O hush, nor with *fables* deceive,"
I replied, "which, though pretty, can ne'er
Make me cease for that insect to grieve,
Who in agony still does appear.

"If a *simile* ever you need,
You are welcome to make a wasp do;
But you ne'er should mix fiction indeed
With things that are serious and true."

WHAT IS FANCY?

SISTER.

I AM to write three lines, and you
Three others that will rhyme.
There — now I've done my task.

BROTHER.

Three stupid lines as e'er I knew.
When you've the pen next time,
Some question of me ask.

SISTER.

Then tell me, brother, and pray mind,
Brother, you tell me true:
What sort of thing is *fancy?*

BROTHER.

By all that I can ever find,
'Tis something that is very new,
And what no dunces *can see.*

SISTER.

That is not half the way to tell
What *fancy* is about;
So pray now tell me more.

BROTHER.

Sister, I think 'twere quite as well
That you should find it out;
So think the matter o'er.

SISTER.

It's what comes in our heads when we
Play at "Let's-make believe,"
And when we play at "Guessing."

BROTHER.

And I have heard it said to be
A talent often makes us grieve,
And sometimes proves a blessing.

ANGER.

ANGER in its time and place
May assume a kind of grace.
It must have some reason in it,
And not last beyond a minute.
If to further lengths it go,
It does into malice grow.
'Tis the difference that we see
'Twixt the serpent and the bee.
If the latter you provoke,
It inflicts a hasty stroke,
Puts you to some little pain,
But it *never stings again.*
Close in tufted bush or brake
Lurks the poison-swellèd snake
Nursing up his cherished wrath;
In the purlieus of his path,
In the cold, or in the warm,
Mean him good, or mean him harm,
Whensoever fate may bring you,
The vile snake will *always sting you.*

BLINDNESS.

In a stage-coach, where late I chanced to be,
A little quiet girl my notice caught;
I saw she looked at nothing by the way,
Her mind seemed busy on some childish thought.

I with an old man's courtesy addressed
The child, and called her pretty dark-eyed maid,
And bid her turn those pretty eyes and see
The wide extended prospect. "Sir," she said,

"I cannot see the prospect, I am blind."
Never did tongue of child utter a sound
So mournful, as her words fell on my ear.
Her mother then related how she found

Her child was sightless. On a fine bright day
She saw her lay her needlework aside,
And, as on such occasions mothers will,
For leaving off her work began to chide.

"I'll do it when 'tis daylight, if you please,
I cannot work, mamma, now it is night."
The sun shone bright upon her when she spoke,
And yet her eyes received no ray of light.

THE MIMIC HARLEQUIN.

"I'LL *make believe*, and fancy something strange:
I will suppose I have the power to change
And make all things unlike to what they were,
To jump through windows and fly through the air,
And quite confound all places and all times,
Like harlequins we see in pantomimes.
These thread-papers my wooden sword must be,
Nothing more like one I at present see.
And now all round this drawing-room I'll range,
And every thing I look at I will change.
Here's Mopsa, our old cat, shall be a bird;
To a Poll parrot she is now transferred.
Here's mamma's work-bag, now I will engage
To whisk this little bag into a cage;
And now my pretty parrot, get you in it,
Another change I'll show you in a minutè."

"O fie, you naughty child, what have you done?
There never was so mischievous a son.
You've put the cat among my work, and torn
A fine laced cap that I but once have worn."

WRITTEN IN THE FIRST LEAF OF A CHILD'S MEMORANDUM-BOOK.

My neat and pretty book, when I thy small lines see
They seem for any use to be unfit for me.
My writing, all misshaped, uneven as my mind,
Within this narrow space can hardly be confined.
Yet I will strive to make my hand less awkward look;
I would not willingly disgrace thee, my neat book.
The finest pens I'll use, and wondrous pains I'll take,
And I these perfect lines my monitors will make,
And every day I will set down in order due
How that day wasted is; and should there be a few
At the year's end that show more goodly to the sight,
If haply here I find some days not wasted quite,
If a small portion of them I have passed aright,
Then shall I think the year not wholly was misspent,
And that my Diary has been by some good angel sent.

MEMORY.

"For gold could Memory be bought,
What treasures would she not be worth;
If from afar she could be brought,
I'd travel for her through the earth!"

This exclamation once was made
By one who had obtained the name
Of young forgetful Adelaide:
And while she spoke, lo! Memory came.—

If Memory indeed it were,
Or such it only feigned to be—
A female figure came to her,
Who said, "My name is Memory:

"Gold purchases in me no share,
Nor do I dwell in distant land;
Study, and thought, and watchful care,
In every place may me command.

"I am not lightly to be won;
A visit only now I make:
And much must by yourself be done,
Ere me you for an inmate take.

"The only substitute for me
Was ever found, is called a pen:
The frequent use of that will be
The way to make me come again."

THE REPROOF.

MAMMA heard me with scorn and pride
A wretched beggar-boy deride.
"Do you not know," said I, "how mean
It is to be thus begging seen?
If for a week I were not fed,
I'm sure I would not beg my bread."
And then away she saw me stalk
With a most self-important walk.
But meeting her upon the stairs,
All these my consequential airs
Were changed to an entreating look.
"Give me," said I, "the pocket-book,
Mamma, you promised I should have."
The pocket-book to me she gave;
After reproof and counsel sage
She bade me write in the first page
This naughty action all in rhyme;
No food to have until the time,
In writing fair and neatly worded,
The unfeeling fact I had recorded.

Slow I compose and slow I write;
And now I feel keen hunger bite.
My mother's pardon I entreat,
And beg she'll give me food to eat.
Dry bread would be received with joy,
By her repentant beggar-boy.

THE TWO BEES.

BUT a few words could William say,
And those few could not speak plain,
Yet thought he was a man one day;
Never saw I boy so vain.

From what could vanity proceed
In such a little lisping lad?
Or was it vanity indeed?
Or was he only very glad?

For he without his maid may go
To the heath with elder boys,
And pluck ripe berries where they grow:
Well may William then rejoice.

Be careful of your little charge;
Elder boys, let him not rove;
The heath is wide, the heath is large,
From your sight he must not move.

But rove he did: they had not been
One short hour the heath upon,
When he was nowhere to be seen;
"Where," said they, "is William gone?"

Mind not the elder boys' distress;
Let them run, and let them fly.
Their own neglect and giddiness
They are justly suffering by.

William his little basket filled
With his berries ripe and red;
Then, naughty boy, two bees he killed,
Under foot he stamped them dead.

William had coursed them o'er the heath,
After them his steps did wander;
When he was nearly out of breath,
The last bee his foot was under.

A cruel triumph which did not
Last but for a moment's space
For now he finds that he has got
Out of sight of every face.

What are the berries now to him?
  What the bees which he has slain?
Fear now possesses every limb,
  He cannot trace his steps again.

The poor bees William had affrighted
  In more terror did not haste
Than he from bush to bush, benighted
  And alone amid the waste.

Late in the night the child was found:
  He who these two bees had crushed
Was lying on the cold damp ground,
  Sleep had then his sorrows hushed.

A fever followed from the fright,
  And from sleeping in the dew;
He many a day and many a night
  Suffered ere he better grew.

His aching limbs while sick he lay
  Made him learn the crushed bees' pain;
Oft would he to his mother say,
  "I ne'er will kill a bee again."

THE JOURNEY FROM SCHOOL AND TO SCHOOL.

O WHAT a joyous, joyous day
Is that on which we come
At the recess from school away,
Each lad to his own home!

What though the coach is crammèd full
The weather very warm;
Think you a boy of us is dull,
Or feels the slightest harm?

The dust and sun is life and fun;
The hot and sultry weather
A higher zest gives every breast,
Thus jumbled all together.

Sometimes we laugh aloud, aloud,
Sometimes huzzah, huzzah.
Who is so buoyant, free, and proud
As we home travellers are?

But sad, but sad is every lad
That day on which we come,
That last last day on which away
We all come from our home.

The coach too full is found to be;
Why is it crammèd thus?
Now every one can plainly see
There's not half room for us.

Soon we exclaim, O shame, O shame,
This hot and sultry weather,
Who but our master is to blame
Who packed us thus together!

Now dust and sun does every one
Most terribly annoy;
Complaints begun, soon every one
Elbows his neighbor boy.

Not now the joyous laugh goes round,
We shout not now huzzah;
A sadder group may not be found
Than we returning are.

THE ORANGE.

THE month was June, the day was hot,
And Philip had an orange got,
The fruit was fragrant, tempting, bright,
Refreshing to the smell and sight;
Not of that puny size which calls
Poor customers to common stalls,
But large and massy, full of juice,
As any Lima can produce.
The liquor would, if squeezèd out,
Have filled a tumbler—thereabout.

The happy boy, with greedy eyes,
Surveys and re-surveys his prize.
He turns it round, and longs to drain,
And with the juice his lips to stain,
His throat and lips were parched with heat;
The orange seemed to cry, *Come eat,*
He from his pocket draws a knife—
When in his thoughts there rose a strife,
Which folks experience when they wish
Yet scruple to begin a dish,

And by their hesitation own
It is too good to eat alone.
But appetite o'er indecision
Prevails, and Philip makes incision.

The melting fruit in quarters came,—
Just then there passèd by a dame,
One of the poorer sort she seemed,
As by her garb you would have deemed,—
Who in her toil-worn arms did hold
A sickly infant ten months old;
That from a fever, caught in spring,
Was slowly then recovering.
The child, attracted by the view
Of that fair orange, feebly threw
A languid look—perhaps the smell
Convinced it that there sure must dwell
A corresponding sweetness there,
Where lodged a scent so good and rare—
Perhaps the smell the fruit did give
Felt healing and restorative—
For never had the child been graced
To know such dainties by their taste.

When Philip saw the infant crave,
He straightway to the mother gave

His quartered orange; nor would stay
To hear her thanks, but tripped away.
Then to the next clear spring he ran
To quench his drought, a happy man!

THE YOUNG LETTER WRITER.

Dear Sir, *Dear Madam*, or *Dear Friend*,
With ease are written at the top;
When those two happy words are penned,
A youthful writer oft will stop,

And bite his pen, and lift his eyes
As if he thinks to find in air
The wished-for following words, or tries
To fix his thoughts by fixèd stare.

But haply all in vain—the next
Two words may be so long before
They'll come, the writer, sore perplext,
Gives in despair the matter o'er;

And when maturer age he sees
With ready pen so swift inditing,
With envy he beholds the ease
Of long-accustomed letter-writing.

Courage, young friend; the time may be
When you attain maturer age,
Some young as you are now may see
You with like ease glide down a page.

Even then when you, to years a debtor,
In varied phrase your meanings wrap,
The welcomest words in all your letter
May be those two kind words at top.

THE THREE FRIENDS.

THREE young girls in friendship met,—
Mary, Martha, Margaret.
Margaret was tall and fair,
Martha shorter by a hair;
If the first excelled in feature,
The other's grace and ease were greater;
Mary, though to rival loth,
In their best gifts equalled both.
They a due proportion kept;
Martha mourned if Margaret wept;
Margaret joyed when any good
She of Martha understood;
And in sympathy for either
Mary was outdone by neither.
Thus far, for a happy space,
All three ran an even race,
A most constant friendship proving,
Equally beloved and loving;

All their wishes, joys, the same;
Sisters only not in name.

Fortune upon each one smiled,
As upon a favorite child;
Well to do and well to see
Were the parents of all three;
Till on Martha's father crosses
Brought a flood of worldly losses,
And his fortunes rich and great
Changed at once to low estate;
Under which o'erwhelming blow
Martha's mother was laid low;
She a hapless orphan left,
Of maternal care bereft,
Trouble following trouble fast,
Lay in a sick bed at last.

In the depth of her affliction
Martha now received conviction,
That a true and faithful friend
Can the surest comfort lend.
Night and day, with friendship tried,
Ever constant by her side
Was her gentle Mary found,
With a love that knew no bound;
And the solace she imparted
Saved her dying broken-hearted.

In this scene of earthly things
There's no good unmixèd springs.
That which had to Martha proved
A sweet consolation, moved
Different feelings of regret
In the mind of Margaret.
She, whose love was not less dear,
Nor affection less sincere
To her friend, was, by occasion
Of more distant habitation,
Fewer visits forced to pay her,
When no other cause did stay her;
And her Mary living nearer,
Margaret began to fear her,
Lest her visits day by day
Martha's heart should steal away.
That whole heart she ill could spare her
Where till now she'd been a sharer.
From this cause with grief she pined,
Till at length her health declined.
All her cheerful spirits flew,
Fast as Martha gathered new;
And her sickness waxèd sore,
Just when Martha felt no more.

Mary, who had quick suspicion
Of her altered friend's condition,

Seeing Martha's convalescence
Less demanded now her presence,
With a goodness built on reason,
Changed her measures with the season;
Turned her steps from Martha's door,
Went where she was wanted more;
All her care and thoughts were set
Now to tend on Margaret.
Mary living 'twixt the two,
From her home could oftener go,
Either of her friends to see,
Than they could together be.

Truth explained is to suspicion
Evermore the best physician.
Soon her visits had the effect;
All that Margaret did suspect,
From her fancy vanished clean;
She was soon what she had been,
And the color she did lack
To her faded cheek came back.
Wounds which love had made her feel,
Love alone had power to heal.

Martha, who the frequent visit
Now had lost, and sore did miss it,
With impatience waxed cross,
Counted Margaret's gain her loss:

All that Mary did confer
On her friend, thought due to her.
In her girlish bosom rise
Little foolish jealousies,
Which into such rancor wrought,
She one day for Margaret sought;
Finding her by chance alone,
She began, with reasons shown,
To insinuate a fear
Whether Mary was sincere;
Wished that Margaret would take heed
Whence her actions did proceed;
For herself, she'd long been minded
Not with outsides to be blinded;
All that pity and compassion,
She believed was affectation;
In her heart she doubted whether
Mary cared a pin for either;
She could keep whole weeks at distance,
And not know of their existence,
While all things remained the same;
But, when some misfortune came,
Then she made a great parade
Of her sympathy and aid,—
Not that she did really grieve,
It was only *make-believe;*
And she cared for nothing, so
She might her fine feelings show,

And get credit, on her part,
For a soft and tender heart.

With such speeches, smoothly made,
She found methods to persuade
Margaret (who, being sore
From the doubts she felt before,
Was prepared for mistrust)
To believe her reasons just;
Quite destroyed that comfort glad,
Which in Mary late she had;
Made her, in experience' spite,
Think her friend a hypocrite,
And resolve, with cruel scoff,
To renounce and cast her off.

See how good turns are rewarded!
She of both is now discarded,
Who to both had been so late
Their support in low estate,
All their comfort, and their stay—
Now of both is cast away.
But the league her presence cherished,
Losing its best prop, soon perished;
She, that was a link to either,
To keep them and it together,
Being gone, the two (no wonder)
That were left, soon fell asunder;

Some civilities were kept,
But the heart of friendship slept;
Love with hollow forms was fed,
But the life of love lay dead:
A cold intercourse they held
After Mary was expelled.

Two long years did intervene
Since they'd either of them seen,
Or, by letter, any word
Of their old companion heard,
When, upon a day, once walking,
Of indifferent matters talking,
They a female figure met.—
Martha said to Margaret,
"That young maid in face does carry
A resemblance strong of Mary."
Margaret, at nearer sight,
Owned her observation right;
But they did not far proceed
Ere they knew 'twas she indeed.
She—but, ah! how changed they view!
From that person which they knew her!
Her fine face disease had scarred,
And its matchless beauty marred:
But enough was left to trace
Mary's sweetness—Mary's grace.

When her eye did first behold them
How they blushed!—but when she told them
How on a sick bed she lay
Months, while they had kept away,
And had no inquiries made
If she were alive or dead;—
How, for want of a true friend,
She was brought near to her end,
And was like so to have died,
With no friend at her bedside;
How the constant irritation,
Caused by fruitless expectation
Of their coming, had extended
The illness, when she might have mended;
Then, O then, how did reflection
Come on them with recollection!
All that she had done for them,
How it did their fault condemn!

But sweet Mary, still the same,
Kindly eased them of their shame;
Spoke to them with accents bland,
Took them friendly by the hand;
Bound them both with promise fast
Not to speak of troubles past;
Made them on the spot declare
A new league of friendship there;

Which, without a word of strife,
Lasted thenceforth long as life.
Martha now and Margaret
Strove who most should pay the debt
Which they owed her, nor did vary
Ever after from their Mary.

ON THE LORD'S PRAYER.

I HAVE taught your young lips the good words to say over,
Which form the petition we call the Lord's Prayer,
And now let me help my dear child to discover
The meaning of all the good words that are there.

"Our Father,"—the same appellation is given
To a parent on earth, and the Parent of all—
O gracious permission! the God that's in heaven
Allows his poor creatures him Father to call.

To "hallow his name," is to think with devotion
Of it, and with reverence mention the same;
Though you are so young, you should strive for some notion
Of the awe we should feel at the Holy One's name.

His "will done on earth, as it is done in heaven,"
Is a wish and a hope we are suffered to breathe
That such grace and favor to us may be given,
Like good angels on high we may live here beneath.

"Our daily bread give us," your young apprehension
May well understand is to pray for our food;
Although we ask bread, and no other thing mention,
God's bounty gives all things sufficient and good.

You pray that your "trespasses may be forgiven,
As you forgive those that are done unto you."
Before this you say to the God that's in heaven,
Consider the words which you speak. Are they true?

If any one has in the past time offended
Us angry creatures who soon take offence,
These words in the prayer are surely intended
To soften our minds, and expel wrath from thence.

We pray that "temptations may never assail us,"
And "deliverance beg from all evil" we find:
But we never can hope that our prayer will avail us,
If we strive not to banish ill thoughts from our mind.

"For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever:" these titles are meant
To express God's dominion and majesty o'er ye:
And "Amen" to the sense of the whole gives assent.

"SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN, AND FORBID THEM NOT, TO COME UNTO ME."

To Jesus our Savior some parents presented
Their children—what fears and what hopes they must feel!
When this the disciples would fain have prevented,
Our Savior reproved their unseasonable zeal.

Not only free leave to come to him was given
But "of such" were the blessed words Christ our Lord spake,
"Of such is composed the kingdom of heaven:"
The disciples, abashèd, perceived their mistake.

With joy then the parents their children brought nigher
And earnestly begged that his hands he would lay
On their heads; and they made a petition still higher,
That he for a blessing upon them would pray.

O happy young children, thus brought to adore him,
To kneel at his feet, and look up in his face;
No doubt now in heaven they still are before him,
Children still of his love, and enjoying his grace.

For being so blest as to come to our Savior,
How deep in their innocent hearts it must sink!
'Twas a visit divine; a most holy behavior
Must flow from that spring of which then they did drink.

THE MAGPIE'S NEST, OR A LESSON OF DOCILITY.

A FABLE.

WHEN the arts in their infancy were,
In a fable of old 'tis exprest,
A wise magpie constructed that rare
Little house for young birds, called a nest.

This was talked of the whole country round,
You might hear it on every bough sung,
"Now no longer upon the rough ground
Will fond mothers brood over their young.

"For the magpie with exquisite skill
Has invented a moss-covered cell,
Within which a whole family will
In the utmost security dwell."

To her mate did each female bird say,
"Let us fly to the magpie, my dear;
If she will but teach us the way,
A nest we will build us up here.

"It's a thing that's close arched over head,
With a hole made to creep out and in;
We, my bird, might make just such a bed,
If we only knew how to begin."

To the magpie soon every bird went,
And in modest terms made their request,
That she would be pleased to consent
To teach them to build up a nest.

She replied, "I will show you the way,
So observe every thing that I do.
First two sticks cross each other I lay"—
"To be sure," said the crow; "why, I knew

"It must be begun with two sticks,
And I thought that they crossèd should be."
Said the pie, "Then some straw and moss mix,
In the way you now see done by me."

"O yes, certainly," said the jackdaw,
"That must follow of course, I have thought;
Though I never before building saw,
I guessed that without being taught."

"More moss, straw, and feathers, I place,
In this manner," continued the pie.
"Yes, no doubt, madam, that is the case;
Though no builder myself, even I,"

Said the starling, "conjectured 'twas so;
It must of necessity follow:
For more moss, straw, and feathers, I know,
It requires, to be soft, round, and hollow."

Whatever she taught them beside,
In his turn every bird of them said,
Though the nest-making art he ne'er tried,
He had just such a thought in his head.

Still the pie went on showing her art,
Till a nest she had built up half way;
She no more of her skill would impart,
But in anger went fluttering away.

And this speech in their hearing she made,
As she perched o'er their heads on a tree,
"If ye all were well skilled in my trade,
Pray, why came ye to learn it of me?"—

When a scholar is willing to learn,
He with silent submission should hear.
Too late they their folly discern;
The effect to this day does appear;

For whenever a pie's nest you see,
Her charming warm canopy view,
All birds' nests but hers seem to be
A magpie's nest just cut in two.

THE BOY AND THE SKYLARK.

A FABLE.

"A WICKED action fear to do,
When you are by yourself; for though
  You think you can conceal it,
A little bird that's in the air
The hidden trespass shall declare,
  And openly reveal it."

Richard this saying oft had heard,
Until the sight of any bird
  Would set his heart a-quaking;
He saw a host of wingèd spies
For ever o'er him in the skies,
  Note of his actions taking.

This pious precept, while it stood
In his remembrance, kept him good
  When nobody was by him;
For though no human eye was near,
Yet Richard still did wisely fear
  The little bird should spy him.

But best resolves will sometimes sleep;
Poor frailty will not always keep
From that which is forbidden;
And Richard, one day, left alone,
Laid hands on something not his own,
And hoped the theft was hidden.

His conscience slept a day or two,
As it is very apt to do
When we with pains suppress it:
And though at times a slight remorse
Would raise a pang, it had not force
To make him yet confess it.

When on a day, as he abroad
Walked by his mother, in their road
He heard a skylark singing;
Smit with the sound, a flood of tears
Proclaimed the superstitious fears
His inmost bosom wringing.

His mother, wondering, saw him cry,
And fondly asked the reason why;
Then Richard made confession,
And said, he feared the little bird
He singing in the air had heard
Was telling his transgression.

The words which Richard spoke below,
As sounds by nature upwards go,
  Were to the skylark carried;
The airy traveller with surprise
To hear his sayings, in the skies
  On his mid journey tarried.

His anger then the bird exprest:
"Sure, since the day I left the nest,
  I ne'er heard folly uttered
So fit to move a skylark's mirth,
As what this little son of earth
  Hath in his grossness muttered.

"Dull fool! to think we sons of air
On man's low actions waste a care,
  His virtues or his vices;
Or soaring on the summer gales,
That we should stoop to carry tales
  Of him or his devices!

"Our songs are all of the delights
We find in our wild airy flights,
  And heavenly exaltation;
The earth you mortals have at heart
Is all too gross to have a part
  In skylark's conversation.

"Unless it be in what green field
Or meadow we our nest may build,
  Midst flowering broom, or heather;
From whence our new-fledged offspring may
With least obstruction wing their way
  Up to the walks of ether.

"Mistaken fool! man needs not us
His secret merits to discuss,
  Or spy out his transgression;
When once he feels his conscience stirred,
That voice within him is the *bird*
  That moves him to confession."

THE MEN AND WOMEN, AND THE MONKEYS.

A FABLE.

WHEN beasts by words their meanings could declare,
Some well-dressed men and women did repair
To gaze upon two monkeys at a fair:

And one who was the spokesman in the place
Said, in their countenance you might plainly trace
The likeness of a withered old man's face.

His observation none impeached or blamed,
But every man and woman when 'twas named
Drew in the head, or slunk away ashamed.

One monkey, who had more pride than the other,
His infinite chagrin could scarcely smother;
But Pug the wiser said unto his brother:

"The slights and coolness of this human nation
Should give a sensible ape no mortification:
'Tis thus they always serve a poor relation."

LOVE, DEATH, AND REPUTATION.

A FABLE.

ONCE on a time, Love, Death, and Reputation,
Three travellers, a tour together went;
And, after many a long perambulation,
Agreed to part by mutual consent.

Death said: "My fellow tourists, I am going
To seek for harvests in the embattled plain;
Where drums are beating, and loud trumpets blowing,
There you'll be sure to meet with me again."

Love said: "My friends, I mean to spend my leisure
With some young couple, fresh in Hymen's bands;
Or 'mongst relations, who in equal measure
Have had bequeathèd to them house or lands."

But Reputation said: "If once we sever,
Our chance of future meeting is but vain:
Who parts from me, must look to part for ever,
For *Reputation lost comes not again.*"

THE SPARROW AND THE HEN.

A SPARROW, when sparrows like parrots could speak,
Addressed an old hen who could talk like a jay:
Said he, "It's unjust that we sparrows must seek
Our food, when your family's fed every day.

"Were you like the peacock, that elegant bird,
The sight of whose plumage her master may please,
I then should not wonder that you are preferred
To the yard, where in affluence you live at your ease.

"I affect no great style, am not costly in feathers,
A good honest brown I find most to my liking,
It always looks neat, and is fit for all weathers,
But I think your grey mixture is not very striking.

"We know that the bird from the isles of Canary
Is fed, foreign airs to sing in a fine cage;
But your note from a cackle so seldom does vary,
The fancy of man it cannot much engage.

"My chirp to a song sure approaches much nearer,
Nay, the nightingale tells me I sing not amiss;
If voice were in question I ought to be dearer;
But the owl he assures me there's nothing in this.

"Nor is your proneness to domestication,
For he dwells in man's barn, and I build in man's thatch,
As we say to each other—but to our vexation,
O'er your safety alone man keeps diligent watch."

"Have you e'er learned to read?" said the hen to the sparrow.
"No, madam," he answered, "I can't say I have."
"Then that is the reason your sight is so narrow,"
The old hen replied, with a look very grave.

"Mrs. Glasse in a Treatise—I wish you could read—
Our importance has shown, and has proved to us why
Man shields us and feeds us: of us he has need
Even before we are born, even after we die."

WHICH IS THE FAVORITE.

BROTHERS and sisters I have many:
Though I know there is not any
Of them but I love, yet I
Will just name them all; and try
If there be one a little more
Loved by me than all the rest.
Yes; I do think, that I love best
My brother Henry, because he
Has always been most fond of me.
Yet, to be sure, there's Isabel;
I think I love her quite as well.
And, I assure you, little Ann,
No brother nor no sister can
Be more dear to me than she.
Only I must say, Emily,
Being the eldest, it's right her
To all the rest I should prefer.
Yet after all I've said, suppose
My greatest favorite should be Rose.
No, John and Paul are both more dear
To me than Rose, that's always here,

While they are half the year at school;
And yet that neither is no rule.
I've named them all, there's only seven;
I find my love to all so even,
To every sister, every brother,
I love not one more than another.

THE BEGGAR-MAN.

ABJECT, stooping, old, and wan,
See yon wretched beggar-man:
Once a father's hopeful heir,
Once a mother's tender care.
When too young to understand
He but scorched his little hand,
By the candle's flaming light
Attracted, dancing, spiral, bright,
Clasping fond her darling round,
A thousand kisses healed the wound.
Now abject, stooping, old, and wan,
No mother tends the beggar-man.

Then nought too good for him to wear,
With cherub face and flaxen hair,
In fancy's choicest gauds arrayed,
Cap of lace with rose to aid,
Milk-white hat and feather blue,
Shoes of red, and coral too
With silver bells to please his ear,
And charm the frequent ready tear.

Now abject, stooping, old, and wan,
Neglected is the beggar-man.

See the boy advance in age,
And learning spreads her useful page;
In vain! for giddy pleasure calls,
And shows the marbles, tops, and balls.
What's learning to the charms of play?
The indulgent tutor must give way,
A heedless, wilful dunce, and wild,
The parents' fondness spoiled the child;
The youth in vagrant courses ran;
Now abject, stooping, old, and wan,
Their fondling is the beggar-man.

CHOOSING A PROFESSION.

A CREOLE boy from the West Indies brought,
To be in European learning taught,
Some years before to Westminster he went,
To a preparatory school was sent.
When from his artless tale the mistress found,
The child had not one friend on English ground,
She, even as if she his own mother were,
Made the dark Indian her peculiar care.
Oft on her favorite's future lot she thought;
To know the bent of his young mind she sought,
For much the kind preceptress wished to find
To what profession he was most inclined,
That where his genius led they might him train;
For nature's kindly bent she held not vain.
But vain her efforts to explore his will;
The frequent question he evaded still:
Till on a day at length he to her came,
Joy sparkling in his eyes; and said, the same
Trade he would be those boys of color were,
Who danced so happy in the open air.

It was a troop of chimney-sweeping boys,
With wooden music and obstreperous noise,
In tarnished finery and grotesque array,
Were dancing in the street the first of May.

BREAKFAST.

A DINNER party, coffee, tea,
Sandwich, or supper, all may be
In their way pleasant. But to me
Not one of these deserves the praise
That welcomer of new-born days,
A breakfast, merits; ever giving
Cheerful notice we are living
Another day refreshed by sleep,
When its festival we keep.
Now although I would not slight
Those kindly words we use, "Good-night,"
Yet parting words are words of sorrow,
And may not vie with sweet "Good-morrow,"
With which again our friends we greet,
When in the breakfast-room we meet,
At the social table round,
Listening to the lively sound
Of those notes which never tire,
Of urn, or kettle on the fire,
Sleepy Robert never hears
Or urn or kettle; he appears

When all have finished, one by one
Dropping off, and breakfast done.
Yet has he too his own pleasure,
His breakfast hour's his hour of leisure;
And, left alone, he reads or muses,
Or else in idle mood he uses
To sit and watch the venturous fly,
Where the sugar's pilèd high,
Clambering o'er the lumps so white,
Rocky cliffs of sweet delight.

WEEDING.

As BUSY Aurelia, 'twixt work and 'twixt play,
  Was laboring industriously hard
To cull the vile weeds from the flowerets away,
  Which grew in her father's courtyard;

In her juvenile anger, wherever she found,
  She plucked, and she pulled, and she tore;
The poor passive sufferers bestrewed all the ground;
  Not a weed of them all she forbore.

At length 'twas her chance on some nettles to light
  (Things, till then, she had scarcely heard named);
The vulgar intruders called forth all her spite;
  In a transport of rage she exclaimed,

"Shall briars so unsightly and worthless as those
  Their great sprawling leaves thus presume
To mix with the pink, the jonquil, and the rose,
  And take up a flower's sweet room?"

On the odious offenders enragèd she flew;
But she presently found to her cost
A tingling unlooked for, a pain that was new,
And rage was in agony lost.

To her father she hastily fled for relief,
And told him her pain and her smart;
With kindly caresses he soothèd her grief,
Then smiling he took the weed's part.

"The world, my Aurelia, this garden of ours
Resembles: too apt we're to deem
In the world's larger garden ourselves as the flowers,
And the poor but as weeds to esteem.

"But them if we rate, or with rudeness repel,
Though some will be passive enough,
From others who 're more independent 'tis well
If we meet not *stinging rebuff*."

PARENTAL RECOLLECTIONS.

A CHILD'S a plaything for an hour;
  Its pretty tricks we try
For that or for a longer space;
  Then tire, and lay it by.

But I knew one that to itself
  All seasons could control;
That would have mocked the sense of pain
  Out of a grievèd soul.

Thou straggler into loving arms,
  Young climber up of knees,
When I forget thy thousand ways,
  Then life and all shall cease.

THE TWO BOYS.

I saw a boy with eager eye
Open a book upon a stall,
And read as he'd devoured it all:
Which when the stall-man did espy,
Soon to the boy I heard him call,
"You sir, you never buy a book,
Therefore in one you shall not look."
The boy passed slowly on, and with a sigh
He wished he never had been taught to read,
Then of the old churl's books he should have had no need.

Of sufferings the poor have many,
Which never can the rich annoy.
I soon perceived another boy
Who looked as if he'd not had any
Food for that day at least, enjoy
The sight of cold meat in a tavern-larder.
This boy's case, thought I, is surely harder,
Thus hungry longing, thus without a penny,
Beholding choice of dainty dressed meat:
No wonder if he wished he ne'er had learned to eat.

THE OFFER.

"TELL me, would you rather be
Changed by a fairy to the fine
Young orphan heiress Geraldine,
Or still be Emily?

"Consider, ere you answer me,
How many blessings are procured
By riches, and how much endured
By chilling poverty."

After a pause, said Emily:
"In the words orphan heiress I
Find many a solid reason why
I would not changèd be.

"What though I live in poverty,
And have of sisters eight—so many,
That few indulgencies, if any,
Fall to the share of me:

"Think you that for wealth I'd be
Of even the least of them bereft,
Or lose my parent, and be left
An orphaned Emily?

"Still should I be Emily,
Although I looked like Geraldine;
I feel within this heart of mine
No change could workèd be."

THE SISTER'S EXPOSTULATION ON THE BROTHER'S LEARNING LATIN.

SHUT these odious books up, brother;
They have made you quite another
Thing from what you used to be:
Once you liked to play with me,
Now you leave me all alone,
And are so conceited grown
With your Latin, you'll scarce look
Upon any English book.
We had used on winter eves
To con over Shakespeare's leaves,
Or on Milton's harder sense
Exercise our diligence,
And you would explain with ease
The obscurer passages;
Find me out the prettiest places,
The poetic turns and graces,
Which, alas! now you are gone,
I must puzzle out alone;
And oft miss the meaning quite,
Wanting you to set me right.
All this comes since you've been under

Your new master. I much wonder
What great charm it is you see
In those words, *musa*, *musæ*;
Or in what do they excel
Our word *song*. It sounds as well
To my fancy as the other.
Now believe me, dearest brother,
I would give my finest frock
And my cabinet and stock
Of new playthings, every toy,
I would give them all with joy,
Could I you returning see
Back to English and to me.

THE BROTHER'S REPLY.

SISTER, fie for shame, no more!
Give this ignorant babble o'er,
Nor, with little female pride,
Things above your sense deride.
Why this foolish underrating
Of my first attempts at Latin?
Know you not each thing we prize
Does from small beginnings rise?
'Twas the same thing with your writing
Which you now take such delight in.
First you learnt the down-stroke line,
Then the hair-stroke thin and fine,
Then a curve and then a better,
Till you came to form a letter;
Then a new task was begun,
How to join them two in one;
Till you got (these first steps pass'd)
To your fine text-hand at last.
So, though I at first commence
With the humble accidence,
And my study's course affords
Little else as yet but words,

I shall venture in a while
At construction, grammar, style,
Learn my syntax, and proceed
Classic authors next to read,
Such as wiser, better, make us,
Sallust, Phædrus, Ovid, Flaccus:
All the poets with their wit,
All the grave historians writ,
Who the lives and actions show
Of men famous long ago;
Even their very sayings giving
In the tongue they used when living.

Think not I shall do that wrong
Either to my native tongue,
English authors to despise,
Or those books which you so prize;
Though from them awhile I stray,
By new studies call'd away,
Them when next I take in hand,
I shall better understand;
For I've heard wise men declare
Many words in English are
From the Latin tongue derived,
Of whose sense girls are deprived
'Cause they do not Latin know.
But if all your anger grow

From this cause, that you suspect,
By proceedings indirect,
I would keep (as miser's pelf)
All this learning to myself;
Sister, to remove this doubt,
Rather than we will fall out,
(If our parents will agree)
You shall Latin learn with me.

NURSE GREEN.

"YOUR prayers you have said, and you've wished good-night:
What cause is there yet keeps my darling awake?
This throb in your bosom proclaims some affright,
Disturbs your composure. Can innocence quake?

"Why thus do you cling to my neck, and enfold me;
What fear unimparted your quiet devours?"
"O mother, there's reason—for Susan has told me,
A dead body lies in the room next to ours."

"I know it; and, but for forgetfulness, dear,
I meant you the coffin this day should have seen,
And read the inscription, and told me the year
And day of the death of your poor old Nurse Green."

"O not for the wealth of the world would I enter
A chamber wherein a dead body lay hid,
Lest somebody bolder than I am should venture
To go near the coffin and lift up the lid."

"And should they do so and the coffin uncover,
The corpse underneath it will be no ill sight;
This frame, when its animal functions are over,
Has nothing of horror the living to fright.

"To start at the dead is preposterous error,
To shrink from a foe that can never contest;
Shall that which is motionless move thee to terror;
Or thou become restless, 'cause they are at rest?

"To think harm of her our good feelings forbid us
By whom when a babe you were dandled and fed;
Who living so many good offices did us,
I ne'er can persuade me would hurt us when dead.

"But if no endeavor your terrors can smother,
If vainly against apprehensions you strive,
Come, bury your fears in the arms of your mother;
My darling, cling close to me, I am alive."

GOOD TEMPER.

In whatsoever place resides
Good Temper, she o'er all presides;
The most obdurate heart she guides.

Even Anger yields unto her power,
And sullen Spite forgets to lour,
Or reconcilèd weeps a shower;

Reserve she softens into Ease,
Makes Fretfulness leave off to teaze.
She Waywardness itself can please.

Her handmaids they are not a few.
Sincerity that's ever true,
And Prompt Obedience always new,

Urbanity that ever smiles,
And Frankness that ne'er beguiles,

And Firmness that is always ready
To make young good-resolves more steady,
The only safeguard of the giddy;

And blushing Modesty, and sweet
Humility in fashions neat;
Yet still her train is incomplete,

Unless meek Piety attend
Good Temper as her surest friend,
Abiding with her to the end.

MODERATION IN DIET.

THE Drunkard's sin, excess in wine,
Which reason drowns, and health destroys,
As yet no failing is of thine,
Dear Jim, strong drink's not given to boys.

You from the cool fresh stream allay
Those thirsts which sultry suns excite;
When choak'd with dust or hot with play,
A cup of water yields delight.

To learn the faults of men grown up,
Dear Jim, be wise and do not haste;
But reverence still that temperate cup,
And cherish long the blameless taste.

They'll come too soon.—But there's a vice,
That shares the world's contempt no less;
To be in eating over nice
Or to court surfeits by excess.

The first, as finical, avoid;
  The last is proper to a swine:
By temperance meat is enjoy'd;
  Think of this maxim when you dine.

Prefer with plain food to be fed,
  Rather than what are dainties styl'd;
A sweet tooth in an infant's head
  Is pardon'd, not in a grown child.

If parent, aunt, or liberal friend,
  With splendid shilling line your purse,
Do not the same on sweetmeats spend,
  Nor appetite with pampering nurse.

Go buy a book; a dainty eaten
  Is vanish'd, and no sweets remain;
They who their minds with knowledge sweeten,
  The savor long as life retain.

Purchase some toy; a horse of wood,
  A pasteboard ship; their structure scan;
Their mimic uses understood
  The school-boy makes a kind of man.

Go see some show; pictures or prints;
  Or beasts far brought from Indian land;
Those foreign sights oft furnish hints
  That may the youthful mind expand.

And something of your store impart,
  To feed the poor and hungry soul;
What buys for you the needless tart,
  May purchase him the needful roll.

INCORRECT SPEAKING.

INCORRECTNESS in your speech
Carefully avoid, my Anna;
Study well the sense of each
Sentence, lest in any manner
It misrepresent the truth;
Veracity's the charm of youth.

You will not, I know, tell lies,
If you know what you are speaking.—
Truth is shy, and from us flies;
Unless diligently seeking
Into every word we pry,
Falsehood will her place supply.

Falsehood is not shy,—not she,—
Ever ready to take place of
Truth, too oft we Falsehood see,
Or at least some latent trace of
Falsehood, in the incorrect
Words of those who Truth respect.

CHARITY.

Oh why your good deeds with such pride do you scan,
And why that self-satisfied smile,
At the shilling you gave to the poor working man,
That lifted you over the stile?

'Tis not much; all the bread that can with it be bought
Will scarce give a morsel to each
Of his eight hungry children;—reflection and thought
Should you more humility teach.

Vainglory's a worm which the very best action
Will taint, and its soundness eat thro';
But to give one's self airs for a small benefaction,
Is folly and vanity too.

The money perhaps by your father or mother
Was furnished you but with that view;
If so, you were only the steward of another,
And the praise you usurp is their due.

Perhaps every shilling you give in this way
Is paid back with two by your friends;
Then the bounty you so ostentatious display,
Has little and low selfish ends.

But if every penny you gave were your own,
And giving diminished your purse;
By a child's slender means think how little is done,
And how little for it you're the worse.

You eat, and you drink; when you rise in the morn,
You are clothed; you have health and content;
And you never have known, from the day you were born,
What hunger or nakedness meant.

The most which your bounty from you can subtract
Is an apple, a sweetmeat, a toy;
For so easy a virtue, so trifling an act,
You are paid with an innocent joy.

Give thy bread to the hungry, the thirsty thy cup;
Divide with th' afflicted thy lot:
This can only be practis'd by persons grown up,
Who've possessions which children have not.

Having two cloaks, give one (said our Lord) to the poor;
In such bounty as that lies the trial;
But a child that gives half of its infantile store
Has small praise, because small self-denial.

MY BIRTHDAY.

A DOZEN years since in this house what commotion,
What bustle, what stir, and what joyful ado;
Every soul in the family at my devotion,
When into the world I came twelve years ago.

I've been told by my friends (if they do not belie me)
My promise was such as no parent would scorn;
The wise and the aged who prophesied by me,
Augured nothing but good of me when I was born.

But vain are the hopes which are formed by a parent,
Fallacious the marks which in infancy shine;
My frail constitution soon made it apparent,
I nourished within me the seeds of decline.

On a sick bed I lay, through the flesh my bones started,
My grief-wasted frame to a skeleton fell;
My physicians foreboding took leave and departed,
And they wished me dead now, who wishèd me well.

Life and soul were kept in by a mother's assistance,
Who struggled with faith, and prevailed 'gainst despair;
Like an angel she watched o'er the lamp of existence,
And never would leave while a glimmer was there.

By her care I'm alive now—but what retribution
Can I for a life twice bestowed thus confer?
Were I to be silent, each year's revolution
Proclaims—each new birthday is owing to her.

The chance-rooted tree that by waysides is planted,
Where no friendly hand will watch o'er its young shoots,
Has less blame if in autumn, when produce is wanted,
Enriched by small culture it put forth small fruits.

But that which with labor in hot-beds is reared,
Secured by nice art from the dews and the rains
Unsound at the root may with justice be feared,
If it pay not with interest the tiller's hard pains.

THE BEASTS IN THE TOWER.

WITHIN the precincts of this yard,
Each in his narrow confines barred,
Dwells every beast that can be found
On Afric or on Indian ground.
How different was the life they led
In those wild haunts where they were bred,
To this tame servitude and fear,
Enslaved by man, they suffer here!

In that uneasy close recess
Couches a sleeping lioness;
That next den holds a bear; the next
A wolf, by hunger ever vext;
There, fiercer from the keeper's lashes
His teeth the fell hyena gnashes;
That creature on whose back abound
Black spots upon a yellow ground,
A panther is, the fairest beast
That haunteth in the spacious East.
He underneath a fair outside
Does cruelty and treachery hide.

That cat-like beast that to and fro
Restless as fire does ever go,
As if his courage did resent
His limbs in such confinement pent,
That should their prey in forests take,
And make the Indian jungles quake,
A tiger is. Observe how sleek
And glossy smooth his coat: no streak
On satin ever matched the pride
Of that which marks his furry hide.
How strong his muscles! he with ease
Upon the tallest man could seize,
In his large mouth away could bear him,
And into thousand pieces tear him:
Yet cabined so securely here,
The smallest infant need not fear.

That lordly creature next to him
A lion is. Survey each limb.
Observe the texture of his claws,
The massy thickness of those jaws;
His mane that sweeps the ground in length,
Like Samson's locks, betokening strength.
In force and swiftness he excels
Each beast that in the forest dwells;
The savage tribes him king confess
Throughout the howling wilderness.

Woe to the hapless neighborhood,
When he is pressed by want of food!
Of man, or child, of bull, or horse,
He makes his prey; such is his force.
A waste behind him he creates,
Whole villages depopulates.
Yet here within appointed lines
How small a grate his rage confines!

This place methinks resembleth well
The world itself in which we dwell.
Perils and snares on every ground
Like these wild beasts beset us round.
But Providence their rage restrains,
Our heavenly Keeper sets them chains;
His goodness saveth every hour
His darlings from the lion's power.

THE CONFIDANT.

ANNA was always full of thought
  As if she'd many sorrows known,
Yet mostly her full heart was fraught
  With troubles that were not her own;
For the whole school to Anna used to tell
Whatever small misfortunes unto them befell.

And being so by all beloved,
  That all into her bosom poured
Their dearest secrets, she was moved
  To pity all—her heart a hoard,
Or storehouse, by this means became for all
The sorrows can to girls of tender age befall.

Though individually not much
  Distress throughout the school prevailed,
Yet as she shared it all, 'twas such
  A weight of woe that her assailed,
She lost her color, loathed her food, and grew
So dull, that all their confidence from her withdrew.

Releasèd from her daily care,
No longer listening to complaint,
She seems to breathe a different air,
And health once more her cheek does paint.
Still Anna loves her friends, but will not hear
Again their list of grievances which cost so dear.

THOUGHTLESS CRUELTY.

THERE, Robert, you have killed that fly,
And should you thousand ages try
The life you've taken to supply,
You could not do it.

You surely must have been devoid
Of thought and sense, to have destroyed
A thing which no way you annoyed—
You'll one day rue it.

'Twas but a fly perhaps you'll say,
That's born in April, dies in May;
That does but just learn to display
His wings one minute,

And in the next is vanished quite:
A bird devours it in his flight,
Or come a cold blast in the night,
There's no breath in it.

The bird but seeks his proper food;
And Providence, whose power endued
That fly with life, when it thinks good,
May justly take it.

But you have no excuses for't;
A life by nature made so short,
Less reason is that you for sport
Should shorter make it.

A fly a little thing you rate,
But, Robert, do not estimate
A creature's pain by small or great;
The greatest being

Can have but fibres, nerves, and flesh,
And these the smallest ones possess,
Although their frame and structure less
Escape our seeing.

EYES.

Lucy, what do you espy
In the cast in Jenny's eye
That should you to laughter move?
I far other feelings prove.
Who on me she does advance
Her good-natured countenance,
And those eyes which in their way
Saying much, so much would say,
They to me no blemish seem,
Or as none I them esteem;
I their imperfection prize
Above other clearer eyes.

Eyes do not as jewels go
By the brightness and the show,
But the meanings which surround them,
And the sweetness shines around them.

Isabel's are black as jet,
But she cannot that forget,

And the pains she takes to show them
Robs them of the praise we owe them.
Ann's, though blue, affected fall;
Kate's are bright, and fierce withal;
And the sparklers of her sister
From ill-humor lose their lustre.
Only Jenny's eyes we see,
By their very plainness, free
From the vices which do smother
All the beauties of the other.

PENNY PIECES.

"I KEEP it, dear papa, within my glove."
"You do—what sum then usually, my love,
Is there deposited? I make no doubt,
Some penny pieces you are not without."
"O no, papa, they'd soil my glove, and be
Quite odious things to carry. O no—see,
This little bit of gold is surely all
That I shall want; for I shall only call
For a small purchase I shall make, papa,
And a mere trifle I'm to buy mamma,
Just to make out the change: so there's no need
To carry penny pieces, sir, indeed."
"O now I know then why a blind man said
Unto a dog which this blind beggar led,—
'Where'er you see some fine young ladies, Tray,
Be sure you lead me quite another way.
The poor man's friend fair ladies used to be;
But now I find no tale of misery
Will ever from their pockets draw a penny:'
The blind man did not see *they wear not any*."

THE RAINBOW.

AFTER the tempest in the sky
How sweet yon rainbow to the eye!
Come, my Matilda, now while some
Few drops of rain are yet to come,
In this honeysuckle bower
Safely sheltered from the shower,
We may count the colors o'er.—
Seven there are, there are no more;
Each in each so finely blended,
Where they begin, or where are ended,
The finest eye can scarcely see.
A fixed thing it seems to be;
But, while we speak, see how it glides
Away, and now observe it hides
Half of its perfect arch—now we
Scarce any part of it can see.
What is color? If I were
A natural philosopher,
I would tell you what does make
This meteor every color take:
But an unlearned eye may view

Nature's rare sights, and love them too.
Whenever I a rainbow see,
Each precious tint is dear to me;
For every color I find there,
Which flowers, which fields, which ladies wear:
My favorite green, the grass's hue,
And the fine deep violet-blue,
And the pretty pale blue-bell,
And the rose I love so well,
All the wonderous variations
Of the tulips, pinks, carnations,
This woodbine here both flower and leaf.
'Tis a truth that's past belief
That every flower and every tree,
And every living thing we see,
Every face which we espy,
Every cheek and every eye,
In all their tints, in every shade,
Are from the rainbow's colors made.

THE FORCE OF HABIT.

A LITTLE child, who had desired
To go and see the park guns fired,
Was taken by his maid that way
Upon the next rejoicing day.
Soon as the unexpected stroke
Upon his tender organs broke,
Confused and stunned at the report,
He to her arms fled for support,
And begged to be conveyed at once
Out of the noise of those great guns,
Those naughty guns, whose only sound
Would kill (he said) without a wound:
So much of horror and offence
The shock had given his infant sense.

Yet this was he in after days
Who filled the world with martial praise,
When from the English quarter-deck
His steady courage swayed the wreck
Of hostile fleets, disturbed no more
By all that vast conflicting roar,

That sky and sea did seem to tear,
When vessels whole blew up in air,
Than at the smallest breath that heaves,
When Zephyr hardly stirs the leaves.

CLOCK STRIKING.

DID I hear the church clock a few minutes ago,
I was asked, and I answered, I hardly did know,
But I thought that I heard it strike three.
Said my friend then, "The blessings we always possess
We know not the want of, and prize them the less;
The church clock was no new sound to thee.

"A young woman, afflicted with deafness a year,
By that sound you scarce heard, first perceived she could *hear;*
I was near her, and saw the girl start
With such exquisite wonder, such feelings of pride,
A happiness almost to terror allied,
She showed the sound went to her heart."

WHY NOT DO IT, SIR, TO-DAY?

"WHY so I will, you noisy bird,
This very day I'll advertise you,
Perhaps some busy ones may prize you.
A fine-tongued parrot as was ever heard,
I'll word it thus—set forth all charms about you,
And say no family should be without you."

Thus far a gentleman addressed a bird,
Then to his friend: "An old procrastinator,
Sir, I am: do you wonder that I hate her?
Though she but seven words can say,
Twenty and twenty times a day
She interferes with all my dreams,
My projects, plans, and airy schemes,
Mocking my foible to my sorrow:
I'll advertise this bird to-morrow."

To this the bird seven words did say:
"Why not do it, sir, to-day?"

HOME DELIGHTS.

To OPERAS and balls my cousins take me,
And fond of plays my new-made friend would make me.
In summer season, when the days are fair,
In my godmother's coach I take the air.
My uncle has a stately pleasure barge,
Gilded and gay, adorned with wonderous charge;
The mast is polished, and the sails are fine,
The awnings of white silk like silver shine;
The seats of crimson satin, where the rowers
Keep time to music with their painted oars;
In this on holidays we oft resort
To Richmond, Twickenham, or to Hampton Court.
By turns we play, we sing—one baits the hook,
Another angles—some more idle look
At the small fry that sport beneath the tides,
Or at the swan that on the surface glides.
My married sister says there is no feast
Equal to sight of foreign bird or beast.
With her in search of these I often roam:
My kinder parents make me blest at home.
Tired of excursions, visitings, and sights,
No joys are pleasing to these home delights.

THE COFFEE SLIPS.

WHENE'ER I fragrant coffee drink,
I on the generous Frenchman think,
Whose noble perseverance bore
The tree to Martinico's shore.
While yet her colony was new,
Her island products but a few,
Two shoots from off a coffee-tree
He carried with him o'er the sea.
Each little tender coffee slip
He waters daily in the ship,
And as he tends his embryo trees,
Feels he is raising midst the seas
Coffee groves, whose ample shade
Shall screen the dark Creolian maid.
But soon, alas! his darling pleasure
In watching this his precious treasure
Is like to fade,— for water fails
On board the ship in which he sails.
Now all the reservoirs are shut,
The crew on short allowance put;
So small a drop is each man's share,

Few leavings you may think there are
To water these poor coffee plants;—
But he supplies their gasping wants,
Even from his own dry parchèd lips
He spares it for his coffee slips.
Water he gives his nurslings first,
Ere he allays his own deep thirst
Lest, if he first the water sip,
He bear too far his eager lip.
He sees them droop for want of more;—
Yet when they reached the destined shore,
With pride the heroic gardener sees
A living sap still in his trees.
The islanders his praise resound;
Coffee plantations rise around;
And Martinico loads her ships
With produce from those dear-saved slips.*

* The name of this man was Desclieux, and the story is to be found in the Abbé Raynal's *History of the Settlements and Trade of the Europeans in the East and West Indies*, book xiii.

THE DESSERT.

WITH the apples and the plums
Little Carolina comes,
At the time of the dessert she
Comes and drops her last new curtsy:
Graceful curtsy, practised o'er
In the nursery before.
What shall we compare her to?
The dessert itself will do.
Like preserves she's kept with care,
Like blanched almonds she is fair,
Soft as down on peach her hair,
And so soft, so smooth is each
Pretty cheek as that same peach,
Yet more like in hue to cherries;
Then her lips, the sweet strawberries,
Caroline herself shall try them
If they are not like when nigh them;
Her bright eyes are black as sloes,
But I think we've none of those
Common fruit here—and her chin
From a round point does begin,

Like the small end of a pear;
Whiter drapery she does wear
Than the frost on cake; and sweeter
Than the cake itself, and neater,
Though bedecked with emblems fine,
Is our little Caroline.

TO A YOUNG LADY, ON BEING TOO FOND OF MUSIC.

WHY is your mind thus all day long
  Upon your music set;
Till reason's swallowed in a song,
  Or idle canzonet?

I grant you, Melesinda, when
  Your instrument was new,
I was well pleased to see you then
  Its charms assiduous woo.

The rudiments of any art
  Or mastery that we try,
Are only on the learner's part
  Got by hard industry.

But you are past your first essays;
  Whene'er you play, your touch,
Skillful and light, ensures you praise:
  All beyond that's too much.

Music's sweet uses are, to smooth
  Each rough and angry passion;
To elevate at once, and soothe:
  A heavenly recreation.

But we misconstrue, and defeat
  The end of any good;
When what should be our casual treat,
  We make our constant food.

While, to the exclusion of the rest,
  This single art you ply,
Your nobler studies are supprest,
  Your books neglected lie.

Could you in what you so affect
  The utmost summit reach;
Beyond what fondest friends expect,
  Or skillfullest masters teach:

The skill you learned would not repay
  The time and pains it cost,
Youth's precious season thrown away,
  And reading-leisure lost.

A benefit to books we owe
  Music can ne'er dispense;
The one does only *sound* bestow,
  The other gives us *sense.*

TIME SPENT IN DRESS.

In many a lecture, many a book,
You all have heard, you all have read,
That time is precious. Of its use
Much has been written, much been said.

The accomplishments which gladden life,
As music, drawing, dancing, are
Encroachers on our precious time;
Their praise or dispraise I forbear.

They should be practised or forborne,
As parents wish, or friends desire:
What rests alone in their own will
Is all I of the young require.

There's not a more productive source
Of waste of time to the young mind
Than dress; as it regards our hours
My view of it is now confined.

Without some calculation, youth
  May live to age and never guess,
That no one study they pursue
  Takes half the time they give to dress.

Write in your memorandum-book
  The time you at your toilette spend;
Then every moment which you pass,
  Talking of dress with a young friend:

And ever when your silent thoughts
  Have on this subject been intent,
Set down as nearly as you can
  How long on dress your thoughts were bent.

If faithfully you should perform
  This task, 'twould teach you to repair
Lost hours, by giving unto dress
  Not more of time than its due share.

THE FAIRY.

SAID Ann to Matilda, "I wish that we knew
If what we've been reading of fairies be true.
Do you think that the poet himself had a sight of
The fairies he here does so prettily write of?
O what a sweet sight if he really had seen
The graceful Titania, the Fairy-land Queen!
If I had such dreams, I would sleep a whole year;
I would not wish to wake while a fairy was near.—
Now I'll fancy that I in my sleep have been seeing
A fine little delicate lady-like being,
Whose steps and whose motions so light were and airy,
I knew at one glance that she must be a fairy.
Her eyes they were blue, and her fine curling hair
Of the lightest of browns, her complexion more fair
Than I e'er saw a woman's; and then for her height
I verily think that she measured not quite
Two feet, yet so justly proportioned withal,
I was almost persuaded to think she was tall.
Her voice was the little thin note of a sprite—
There—d'ye think I have made out a fairy aright?

You'll confess, I believe, I've not done it amiss."
"Pardon me," said Matilda, "I find in all this
Fine description, you've only your young sister Mary
Been taking a copy of here for a fairy."

CONQUEST OF PREJUDICE.

UNTO a Yorkshire school was sent
A negro youth to learn to write,
And the first day young Juba went
All gazed on him as a rare sight.

But soon with altered looks askance
They view his sable face and form,
When they perceive the scornful glance
Of the head boy, young Henry Orme.

He in the school was first in fame:
Said he, "It does to me appear
To be a great disgrace and shame
A black should be admitted here."

His words were quickly whispered round,
And every boy now looks offended;
The master saw the change, and found
That Orme a mutiny intended.

Said he to Orme, "This African
It seems is not by you approved;
I'll find a way, young Englishman,
To have this prejudice removed.

"Nearer acquaintance possibly
May make you tolerate his hue;
At least 'tis my intent to try
What a short month may chance to do."

Young Orme and Juba then he led
Into a room, in which there were
For each of the two boys a bed,
A table, and a wicker chair.

He locked them in, secured the key,
That all access to them was stopt;
They from without can nothing see;
Their food is through a skylight dropt.

A month in this lone chamber Orme
Is sentenced during all that time
To view no other face or form
Than Juba's parched by Afric clime.

One word they neither of them spoke
The first three days of the first week;
On the fourth day the ice was broke:
Orme was the first that deigned to speak.

The dreary silence o'er, both glad
To hear of human voice the sound,
The negro and the English lad
Comfort in mutual converse found.

Of ships and seas and foreign coast
Juba can speak, for he has been
A voyager: and Orme can boast
He London's famous town has seen.

In eager talk they pass the day,
And borrow hours even from the night;
So pleasantly time passed away,
That they have lost their reckoning quite.

And when their master set them free,
They thought a week was sure remitted,
And thanked him that their liberty
Had been before the time permitted.

Now Orme and Juba are good friends;
The school, by Orme's example won,
Contend who most shall make amends
For former slights to Afric's son.

THE GREAT GRANDFATHER.

My father's grandfather lives still,
  His age is fourscore years and ten;
He looks a monument of time,
  The agedest of aged men.

Though years lie on him like a load,
  A happier man you will not see
Than he, whenever he can get
  His great grandchildren on his knee.

When we our parents have displeased,
  He stands between us as a screen;
By him our good deeds in the sun,
  Our bad ones in the shade are seen.

His love's a line that's long drawn out,
  Yet lasteth firm unto the end;
His heart is oak, yet unto us
  It like the gentlest reed can bend.

A fighting soldier he has been—
  Yet by his manners you would guess
That he his whole long life had spent
  In scenes of country quietness.

His talk is all of things long past,
  For modern facts no pleasure yield—
Of the famed year of forty-five,
  Of William, and Culloden's field.

The deeds of this eventful age,
  Which princes from their thrones have hurled,
Can no more interest wake in him
  Than stories of another world.

When I his length of days revolve,
  How like a strong tree he hath stood,
It brings into my mind almost
  Those patriarchs old before the flood.

THE SPARTAN BOY.

WHEN I the memory repeat
Of the heroic actions great,
Which, in contempt of pain and death,
Were done by men who drew their breath
In ages past, I find no deed
That can in fortitude exceed
The noble boy, in Sparta bred,
Who in the temple ministered.

By the sacrifice he stands,
The lighted incense in his hands.
Through the smoking censer's lid
Dropped a burning coal, which slid
Into his sleeve and passed in
Between the folds even to the skin.
Dire was the pain which then he proved;
But not for this his sleeve he moved,
Or would the scorching ember shake
Out from the folds, lest it should make
Any confusion, or excite
Disturbance at the sacred rite.

But close he kept the burning coal,
Till it eat itself a hole
In his flesh. The standers by
Saw no sign, and heard no cry,
Of his pangs had no discerning,
Till they smelled the flesh a-burning.
All this he did in noble scorn,
And for he was a Spartan born.

Young student, who this story readest,
And with the same thy thoughts now feedest,
Thy weaker nerves might thee forbid
To do the thing the Spartan did;
Thy feebler heart could not sustain
Such dire extremity of pain.
But in this story thou mayst see,
What may useful prove to thee.
By his example thou wilt find,
That to the ingenuous mind
Shame can greater anguish bring
Than the body's suffering;
That pain is not the worst of ills,
Not when it the body kills;
That in fair religion's cause,
For thy country, or the laws,
When occasion due shall offer,
'Tis reproachful *not to suffer.*

If thou shouldst a soldier be,
And a wound should trouble thee,
If without the soldier's fame
Thou to chance should owe a maim,
Do not for a little pain
On thy manhood bring a stain;
But to keep thy spirits whole,
Think on the Spartan and the *coal.*

QUEEN ORIANA'S DREAM.

On a bank with roses shaded,
Whose sweet scent the violets aided,
Violets whose breath alone
Yields but feeble smell or none
(Sweeter bed Jove ne'er reposed on
When his eyes Olympus closed on),
While o'erhead six slaves did hold
Canopy of cloth o' gold,
And two more did music keep
Which might Juno lull to sleep,
Oriana, who was queen
To the mighty Tamerlane,
That was lord of all the land
Between Thrace and Samarcand,
While the noontide fervour beamed,
Mused herself to sleep, and *dreamed*——

Thus far in magnific strain
A young poet soothed his vein,
But he had nor prose nor numbers
To express a princess' slumbers.—

Youthful Richard had strange fancies,
Was deep versed in old romances,
And could talk whole hours upon
The great Cham and Prester John,
Tell the field in which the Sophi
From the Tartar won a trophy —
What he read with such delight of,
Thought he could as easily write of—
But his over-young invention
Kept not pace with brave intention.
Twenty suns did rise and set,
And he could no further get,
But unable to proceed,
Made a virtue out of need,
And (his labors wiselier deemed of)
Did omit *what the queen dreamed of.*

ON A PICTURE OF THE FINDING OF MOSES BY PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER.

THIS picture does the story express
Of Moses in the bulrushes,
How livelily the painter's hand
By colors makes us understand!

Moses that little infant is.
This figure is his sister. This
Fine stately lady is no less
A personage than a princess,
Daughter of Pharaoh, Egypt's king;
Whom Providence did hither bring
This little Hebrew child to save.
See how near the perilous wave
He lies exposèd in the ark,
His rushy cradle, his frail bark!
Pharaoh, king of Egypt land,
In his greatness gave command
To his slaves, they should destroy
Every new-born Hebrew boy.
This Moses was an Hebrew's son;
When he was born, his birth to none

His mother told, to none revealed,
But kept her goodly child concealed.
Three months she hid him; then she wrought
With bulrushes this ark, and brought
Him in it to this river's side,
Carefully looking far and wide
To see that no Egyptian eye
Her ark-hid treasure should espy.
Among the river-flags she lays
The child. Near him his sister stays.
We may imagine her affright,
When the king's daughter is in sight.
Soon the princess will perceive
The ark among the flags, and give
Command to her attendant maid
That its contents shall be displayed.
Within the ark the child is found,
And now he utters mournful sound.
Behold he weeps, as if he were
Afraid of cruel Egypt's heir!
She speaks, she says, "This little one
I will protect, though he the son
Be of an Hebrew." Every word
She speaks is by the sister heard.—
And now observe, this is the part
The painter chose to show his art.
Look at the sister's eager eye,
As here she seems advancing nigh.

Lowly she bends, says, "Shall I go
And call a nurse to thee? I know
A Hebrew woman liveth near,
Great lady, shall I bring her here?"
See! Pharaoh's daughter answers, "Go."—
No more the painter's art can show;
He cannot make his figures move.—
On the light wings of swiftest love
The girl will fly to bring the mother
To be the nurse, she'll bring no other.
To her will Pharaoh's daughter say,
"Take this child from me away:
For wages nurse him. To my home
At proper age this child may come.
When to our palace he is brought,
Wise masters shall for him be sought
To train him up, befitting one
I would protect as my own son.
And Moses be a name unto him
Because I from the waters drew him."

DAVID.

It is not always to the strong
Victorious battle shall belong.
This found Goliath huge and tall:
Mightiest giant of them all,
Who in the proud Philistine host
Defièd Israel with boast.

With loud voice Goliath said:
"Here, armed Israel, gatherèd,
And in array against us set:
Ye shall alone by me be met.
For am not I a Philistine?
What strength may be compared to mine?

"Choose ye a man of greatest might:
And if he conquer me in fight,
Then we will all servants be,
King of Israel, unto thee.
But if I the victor, then
Shall Saul and all his armèd men
Bend low beneath Philistine yoke."

Day by day these words he spoke,
Singly traversing the ground.
But not an Israelite was found
To combat man to man with him,
Who such prodigious force of limb
Displayed. Like to a weaver's beam
The ponderous spear he held did seem.
In height six cubits he did pass,
And he was arm'd all o'er in brass.

Him we will leave awhile, and speak
Of one, the soft down on whose cheek
Of tender youth the tokens bare.
Ruddy he was and very fair.
David, the son of Jesse he,
Small sized, yet beautiful to see.
Three brothers had he in the band
Of warriors under Saul's command;
Himself at home did private keep
In Bethlem's plains his father's sheep.

Jesse said to this his son:
"David, to thy brothers run,
Where in the camp they now abide,
And learn what of them may betide.
These presents for their captains take,
And of their fare inquiries make."

With joy the youth his sire obeyed.—
David was no whit dismay'd
When he arrivèd at the place
Where he beheld the strength and face
Of dread Goliath, and could hear
The challenge. Of the people near
Unmoved he asked, what should be done
To him who slew that boasting one,
Whose words such mischiefs did forebode
To the armies of the living God?

"The king," they unto David say,
"Most amply will that man repay;
He and his father's house shall be
Evermore in Israel free.
With mighty wealth Saul will endow
That man: and he has made a vow,
Whoever takes Goliath's life,
Shall have Saul's daughter for his wife."

His eldest brother, who had heard
His question, was to anger stirred
Against the youth: for (as he thought)
Things out of his young reach he sought.
Said he, "What moved thee to come here,
To question warlike men? say, where
And in whose care are those few sheep,

That in the wilderness you keep?
I know thy thoughts, how proud thou art:
In the naughtiness of thy heart,
Hoping a battle thou mayst see,
Thou comest hither down to me."

Then answered Jesse's youngest son
In these words: "What have I done?
Is there not cause?" Some there which heard,
And at the manner of his word
Admired, report this to the king.
By his command they David bring
Into his presence. Fearless then,
Before the king and his chief men,
He shows his confident design
To combat with the Philistine.
Saul with wonder heard the youth,
And thus addressed him: "Of a truth,
No power thy untried sinew hath
To cope with this great man of Gath."

Lowly David bowed his head,
And with firm voice the stripling said:
"Thy servant kept his father's sheep;
Rushing from a mountain steep
There came a lion, and a bear,
The firstlings of my flock to tear.

Thy servant hath that lion killed,
And killed that bear, when from the field
Two young lambs by force they seized.
The Lord was mercifully pleased
Me to deliver from the paw
Of the fierce bear, and cruel jaw
Of the strong lion. I shall slay
The unrighteous Philistine this day,
If God deliver him also
To me." He ceased. The king said, "Go!
Thy God, the God of Israel, be
In the battle still with thee."

David departs unarmed, save
A staff in hand he chanced to have.
Nothing to the fight he took,
Save five smooth stones from out a brook;
These in his shepherd's scrip he placed,
That was fastened round his waist.
With staff and sling alone he meets
The armèd giant, who him greets
With nought but scorn. Looking askance
On the fair ruddy countenance
Of his young enemy—"Am I
A dog, that thou comest here to try
Thy strength upon me with a staff?"
Goliath said with scornful laugh.

" Thou comest with sword, with spear, with shield,
Yet thou to me this day must yield.
The Lord of Hosts is on my side,
Whose armies boastful thou'st defied.
All nations of the earth shall hear
He saveth not with shield and spear."

Thus David spake, and nigher went,
Then choosing from his scrip, he sent
Out of his slender sling a stone.—
The giant uttered fearful moan.
The stone though small had piercèd deep
Into his forehead, endless sleep
Giving Goliath—and thus died
Of Philistines the strength and pride.

DAVID IN THE CAVE OF ADULLAM.

DAVID and his three captains bold
Kept ambush once within a hold.
It was in Adullam's cave,
Nigh which no water they could have.
Nor spring nor running brook was near
To quench the thirst that parched them there.
Then David king of Israel
Straight bethought him of a well
Which stood beside the city gate
At Bethlem: Where, before his state
Of kingly dignity, he had
Oft drunk his fill, a shepherd lad.
But now his fierce Philistian foe
Encamped before it he does know.
Yet ne'er the less with heat opprest,
Those three bold captains he addrest,
And wished that one to him would bring
Some water from his native spring.
His valiant captains instantly
To execute his will did fly,

Those three brave men the ranks broke through
Of armèd foes, and water drew
For David, their belovèd king,
At his own sweet native spring.
Back through their enemies they haste,
With the hard-earned treasure graced.
What with such danger they had sought,
With joy unto their king they brought.
But when the good king David found
What they had done, he on the ground
The water poured, "Because," said he,
"That it was at the jeopardy
Of your three lives this thing ye did,
That I should drink it God forbid."

PRINCE DORUS;

OR,

FLATTERY PUT OUT OF COUNTENANCE,

A Poetical Version of an Ancient Tale.

1811.

PRINCE DORUS.

In days of yore, as ancient stories tell,
A king in love with a great princess fell.
Long at her feet submiss the monarch sighed,
While she with stern repulse his suit denied.
Yet was he formed by birth to please the fair,
Dressed, danced, and courted, with a monarch's air;
But magic spells her frozen breast had steeled
With stubborn pride that knew not how to yield.

This to the king a courteous fairy told,
And bade the monarch in his suit be bold;
For he that would the charming princess wed,
Had only on her cat's black tail to tread,
When straight the spell would vanish into air,
And he enjoy for life the yielding fair.

He thanked the fairy for her kind advice.
Thought he, "If this be all, I'll not be nice;
Rather than in my courtship I will fail
I will to mince-meat tread Minon's black tail."
To the princess's court repairing straight,

He sought the cat that must decide his fate;
But when he found her, how the creature stared!
How her back bristled, and her great eyes glared!
That tail which he so fondly hoped his prize,
Was swelled by wrath to twice its usual size;
And all her cattish gestures plainly spoke
She thought the affair he came upon no joke.

With wary step the cautious king draws near,
And slyly means to attack her in her rear:
But when he thinks upon her tail to pounce,
Whisk—off she skips—three yards upon a bounce;
Again he tries, again his efforts fail—
Minon's a witch—the deuce is in her tail.

The anxious chase for weeks the monarch tried,
Till courage failed, and hope within him died.
A desperate suit 'twas useless to prefer,
Or hope to catch a tail of quicksilver.
When on a day, beyond his hopes, he found
Minon, his foe, asleep upon the ground;
Her ample tail behind her lay outspread,
Full to the eye, and tempting to the tread.
The king with rapture the occasion blessed,
And with quick foot the fatal part he pressed.
Loud squalls were heard, like howlings of a storm,
And sad he gazed on Minon's altered form,—

No more a cat, but changed into a man
Of giant size, who frowned, and thus began:

"Rash king, that dared with impious design
To violate that tail that once was mine;
What though the spell be broke, and burst the charms
That kept the princess from thy longing arms,—
Not unrevenged shalt thou my fury dare,
For by that violated tail I swear,
From your unhappy nuptials shall be born
A prince whose nose shall be thy subjects' scorn.
Blessed in his love thy son shall never be
Till he his foul deformity shall see,
Till he with tears his blemish shall confess,
Discern its odious length, and wish it less!"

This said, he vanished; and the king awhile
Mused at his words, then answered with a smile,
"Give me a child in happy wedlock born,
And let his nose be made like a French horn;
His knowledge of the fact I ne'er can doubt,—
If he have eyes, or hands, he'll find it out."

So spake the king, self-flattered in his thought,
Then with impatient step the princess sought;
His urgent suit no longer she withstands,
But links with him in Hymen's knot her hands.

Almost as soon a widow as a bride,
Within a year the king her husband died;
And shortly after he was dead and gone,
She was delivered of a little son,
The prettiest babe, with lips as red as rose,
And eyes like little stars—but such a nose—
The tender mother fondly took the boy
Into her arms, and would have kissed her joy;
His luckless nose forbade the fond embrace—
He thrust the hideous feature in her face.

Then all her maids of honor tried in turn,
And for a prince's kiss in envy burn;
By sad experience taught, their hopes they missed,
And mourned a prince that never could be kissed.

In silent tears the queen confessed her grief,
Till kindest flattery came to her relief.
Her maids, as each one takes him in her arms,
Expatiate freely o'er his world of charms—
His eyes, lips, mouth—his forehead was divine—
And for the nose—they called it aquiline—
Declared that Cæsar, who the world subdued,
Had such a one—just of that longitude—
That kings like him compelled folks to adore them,
And drove the short-nosed sons of men before them—
That length of nose portended length of days,

And was a great advantage many ways—
To mourn the gifts of Providence was wrong—
Besides, *the nose was not so very long.*

These arguments in part her grief redrest,
A mother's partial fondness did the rest;
And Time, that all things reconciles by use,
Did in her notions such a change produce,
That, as she views her babe, with favor blind,
She thinks him handsomest of human kind.

Meantime, in spite of his disfigured face,
Dorus (for so he's called) grew up apace;
In fair proportion all his features rose,
Save that most prominent of all—his nose.
That nose, which in the infant could annoy,
Was grown a perfect nuisance in the boy.
Whene'er he walked, his handle went before,
Long as the snout of ferret, or wild boar;
Or like the staff, with which on holy day
The solemn parish beadle clears the way.

But from their cradle to their latest year,
How seldom truth can reach a prince's ear!
To keep the unwelcome knowledge out of view,
His lesson well each flattering courtier knew;
The hoary tutor, and the wily page,
Unmeet confederates! dupe his tender age.

They taught him that whate'er vain mortals boast—
Strength, courage, wisdom—all they value most—
Whate'er on human life distinction throws—
Was all comprised—in what?—a length of nose!
Even Virtue's self (by some supposed chief merit)
In short-nosed folks was only want of spirit.

While doctrines such as these his guides instilled,
His palace was with long-nosed people filled;
At Court whoever ventured to appear
With a short nose, was treated with a sneer.
Each courtier's wife, that with a babe is blest,
Moulds its young nose betimes; and does her best,
By pulls, and hauls, and twists, and lugs, and pinches,
To stretch it to the standard of the prince's.

Duped by these arts, Dorus to manhood rose,
Nor dreamed of aught more comely than his nose;
Till Love, whose power e'en princes have confest,
Claimed the soft empire o'er his youthful breast.
Fair Claribel was she who caused his care;
A neighboring monarch's daughter, and sole heir.
For beauteous Claribel his bosom burned;
The beauteous Claribel his flame returned;
Deigned with kind words his passion to approve,
Met his soft vows, and yielded love for love.

If in her mind some female pangs arose
At sight (and who can blame her?) of his nose,
Affection made her willing to be blind;
She loved him for the beauties of his mind;
And in his lustre, and his royal race,
Contented sunk—one feature of his face.

Blooming to sight, and lovely to behold,
Herself was cast in Beauty's richest mould;
Sweet female majesty her person decked
Her face an angel's—save for one defect:
Wise Nature, who to Dorus over kind,
A length of nose too liberal had assigned,
As if with us poor mortals to make sport,
Had given to Claribel a nose too short:
But turned up with a sort of modest grace;
It took not much of beauty from her face:
And subtle courtiers, who their prince's mind
Still watched, and turned about with every wind,
Assured the prince, that though man's beauty owes
Its charms to a majestic length of nose,
The excellence of woman (softer creature)
Consisted in the shortness of that feature.
Few arguments were wanted to convince
The already more than half-persuaded prince;
Truths which we hate with slowness we receive,
But what we wish to credit, soon believe.

The princess's affections being gained,
What but her sire's approval now remained?
Ambassadors with solemn pomp are sent
To win the aged monarch to consent
(Seeing their States already were allied)
That Dorus might have Claribel to bride.
Her royal sire, who wisely understood
The match proposed was for both kingdoms' good,
Gave his consent; and gentle Claribel
With weeping bids her father's court farewell.

With gallant pomp, and numerous array,
Dorus went forth to meet her on her way;
But when the princely pair of lover's met,
Their hearts on mutual gratulations set,
Sudden the Enchanter from the ground arose
(The same who prophesied the prince's nose),
And with rude grasp, unconscious of her charms,
Snatched up the lovely princess in his arms,
Then bore her out of reach of human eyes,
Up in the pathless regions of the skies.

Bereft of her that was his only care,
Dorus resigned his soul to wild despair;
Resolved to leave the land that gave him birth,
And seek fair Claribel throughout the earth.

Mounting his horse, he gives the beast the reins,
And wanders lonely through the desert plains;
With fearless heart the savage heath explores,
Where the wolf prowls, and where the tiger roars,
Nor wolf, nor tiger, dare his way oppose;
The wildest creatures see, and shun, his NOSE.
Even lions fear! the elephant alone
Surveys with pride a trunk so like his own.

At length he to a shady forest came,
Where in a cavern lived an aged dame;
A reverend fairy, on whose silver head
A hundred years their downy snows had shed.
Here entering in, the mistress of the place
Bespoke him welcome with a cheerful grace;
Fetched forth her dainties, spread her social board
With all the store her dwelling could afford.
The prince, with toil and hunger sore opprest,
Gladly accepts, and deigns to be her guest.
But when the first civilities were paid,
The dishes ranged, and grace in order said,
The fairy, who had leisure now to view
Her guest more closely, from her pocket drew
Her spectacles, and wiped them from the dust,
Then on her nose endeavored to adjust;
With difficulty she could find a place
To hang them on in her unshapely face;
For if the princess's was somewhat small,

This fairy scarce had any nose at all.
But when by help of spectacles the crone
Discerned a nose so different from her own,
What peals of laughter shook her aged sides!
While with sharp jests the prince she thus derides.

FAIRY.

Welcome, great Prince of Noses, to my cell;
'Tis a poor place,—but thus we fairies dwell.
Pray, let me ask you, if from far you come—
And don't you sometimes find it cumbersome?

PRINCE.

Find what?

FAIRY.

Your nose—

PRINCE.

My nose, ma'am!

FAIRY.

No offence
The king your father was a man of sense—
A handsome man (but lived not to be old),
And had a nose cast in the common mould.

Even I myself, that now with age am grey,
Was thought to have some beauty in my day,
And am the daughter of a king.— Your sire
In this poor face saw something to admire;
And I to show my gratitude made shift—
Have stood his friend — and helped him at a lift—
'Twas I that, when his hopes began to fail,
Showed him the spell that lurked in Minon's tail.
Perhaps you have heard — but come, sir, you don't eat—
That nose of yours requires both wine and meat;
Fall to, and welcome, without more ado:
You see your fare — what shall I help you to?
This dish the tongues of nightingales contains;
This, eyes of peacocks; and that, linnets' brains;
That next you is a bird of paradise—
We fairies in our food are somewhat nice.—
And pray, sir, while your hunger is supplied,
Do lean your nose a little on one side;
The shadow which it casts upon the meat
Darkens my plate, I see not what I eat."

The prince on dainty after dainty feeding,
Felt inly shocked at the old fairy's breeding;
But held it want of manners in the dame,
And did her country education blame.
One thing he only wondered at,— what she
So very comic in his nose could see.

Hers, it must be confessed, was somewhat short,
And time and shrinking age accounted for 't;
But for his own, thank Heaven, he could not tell
That it was ever thought remarkable;
A decent nose, of reasonable size,
And handsome thought, rather than otherwise.
But that which most of all his wonder paid,
Was to observe the fairy's waiting-maid;
How at each word the aged dame let fall
She curtseyed low, and smiled assent to all;
But chiefly when the reverend grannam told
Of conquests which her beauty made of old.
He smiled to see how flattery swayed the dame,
Nor knew himself was open to the same!
He finds her raillery now increase so fast,
That making hasty end of his repast,
Glad to escape her tongue, he bids farewell
To the old fairy and her friendly cell.

But his kind hostess, who had vainly tried
The force of ridicule to cure his pride,
Fertile in plans, a surer method chose,
To make him see the error of his nose;
For, till he viewed that feature with remorse,
The enchanter's direful spell must be in force.
Midway the road by which the prince must pass,
She raised by magic art a house of glass:

No mason's hand appeared, nor work of wood;
Compact of glass the wondrous fabric stood.
Its stately pillars, glittering in the sun,
Conspicuous from afar, like silver, shone.
Here, snatched and rescued from the enchanter's might,
She placed the beauteous Claribel in sight.

The admiring prince the crystal dome surveyed,
And sought access unto his lovely maid;
But, strange to tell, in all that mansion's bound,
Nor door nor casement was there to be found.
Enraged, he took up massy stones, and flung
With such a force that all the palace rung;
But made no more impression on the glass
Than if the solid structure had been brass.
To comfort his despair, the lovely maid
Her snowy hand against her window laid;
But when with eager haste he thought to kiss,
His nose stood out, and robbed him of the bliss.
Thrice he essayed the impracticable feat;
The window and his lips can never meet.

The painful truth which flattery long concealed,
Rushed on his mind, and, "O!" he cried, "I yield
Wisest of fairies, thou wert right, I wrong—
I own, I own, I have a nose too long."

The frank confession was no sooner spoke
But into shivers all the palace broke.
His nose of monstrous length, to his surprise,
Shrunk to the limits of a common size;
And Claribel with joy her lover viewed,
Now grown as beautiful as he was good.
The aged fairy in their presence stands,
Confirms their mutual vows, and joins their hands.
The prince with rapture hails the happy hour,
That rescued him from self-delusion's power;
And trains of blessings crown the future life
Of Dorus, and of Claribel, his wife.

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS,

BY CHARLES LAMB.

HITHERTO UNCOLLECTED.

(1796–1832.)

ON BEING ASKED TO WRITE IN MISS WESTWOOD'S ALBUM.

My feeble Muse, that fain her best would
Write, at command of Frances Westwood,
But feels her wits not in their best mood,
Fell lately on some idle fancies,
As she's much given to romances,
About this self-same style of Frances;
Which seems to be a name in common
Attributed to man or woman.
She thence contrived this flattering moral,
With which she hopes no soul will quarrel,
That she, whom this twin title decks,
Combines what's good in either sex;
Unites—how very rare the case is!—
Masculine sense to female graces
And, quitting not her proper rank,
Is both in one—*Fanny* and *frank*.

Oct. 12, 1827.

LINES
ADDRESSED TO LIEUT. R. W. H. HARDY, R. N.,
ON THE PERUSAL OF HIS VOLUME OF TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR OF MEXICO.

'Tis pleasant, lolling in our elbow-chair,
Secure at home, to read descriptions rare
Of venturous traveller in savage climes:
His hair-breadth 'scapes, toil, hunger—and sometimes
The merrier passages that, like a foil
To set off perils past, sweetened that toil,
And took the edge from danger; and I look
With such fear-mingled pleasure through thy book,
Adventurous Hardy! Thou a *diver** art,
But of no common form; and, for thy part
Of the adventure, hast brought home to the nation
Pearls of discovery—*jewels* of observation.

Enfield, January, 1830.

*Captain Hardy practised this art with considerable success.

THE FIRST LEAF OF SPRING.

WRITTEN ON THE FIRST LEAF OF A LADY'S ALBUM.

THOU fragile, filmy, gossamery thing,
First leaf of spring!
At every lightest breath that quakest,
And with a zephyr shakest;
Scarce stout enough to hold thy slender form together
In calmest halcyon weather:
Next sister to the web that spiders weave,
Poor flutterers to deceive
Into their treacherous silken bed:
O! how art thou sustained, how nourishèd!
All trivial as thou art,
Without dispute,
Thou play'st a mighty part;
And art the herald to a throng
Of buds, blooms, fruit,
That shall thy cracking branches sway,
While birds on every spray
Shall pay the copious fruitage with a sylvan song.

So 'tis with thee, whoe'er on thee shall look,
First leaf of this beginning modest book.
Slender thou art, God knowest,
And little grace bestowest,
But in thy train shall follow after,
Wit, wisdom, seriousness, in hand with laughter;
Provoking jests, restraining soberness,
In their appropriate dress;
And I shall joy to be outdone
By those who brighter trophies won,
Without a grief,
That I thy slender promise have begun,
First leaf.

1832.

THE APE.

TO THE EDITOR [OF THE "LONDON MAGAZINE"].

MR. EDITOR,—The riddling lines which I send you, were written upon a young lady who, from her diverting sportiveness in childhood, was named by her friends THE APE. When the verses were written, L. M. had outgrown the title—but not the memory of it—being in her teens, and consequently past child-tricks. They are an endeavor to express that perplexity which one feels at any alteration, even supposed for the better, in a beloved object; with a little oblique grudging at TIME, who cannot bestow new graces without taking away some portion of the older ones, which we can ill miss.

AN Ape is but a trivial beast,
  Men count it light and vain;
But I would let them have their thoughts,
  To have my Ape again.

To love a beast in any sort
  Is no great sign of grace;
But I have loved a flouting Ape's
  'Bove any lady's face.

I have known the power of two fair eyes,
In smile or else in glance,
And how (for I a lover was)
They make the spirits dance;

But I would give two hundred smiles
Of them that fairest be,
For one look of my staring Ape
That used to stare on me.

This beast, this Ape, it had a face—
If face it might be styled—
Sometimes it was a staring Ape,
Sometimes a beauteous child—

A Negro flat—a Pagod squat,
Cast in a Chinese mould—
And then it was a Cherub's face
Made of the beaten gold!

But Time, that's meddling, meddling still,
And always altering things—
And what's already at the best
To alteration brings,

That turns the sweetest buds to flowers,
And chops and changes toys,
That breaks up dreams, and parts old friends,
And still commutes our joys—

Has changed away my Ape at last
And in its place conveyed,
Thinking therewith to cheat my sight,
A fresh and blooming maid!

And fair to sight is she—and still
Each day doth sightlier grow,
Upon the ruins of the Ape,
My ancient playfellow!

The tale of Sphinx, and Theban jests
I true in me perceive;
I suffer riddles; death from dark
Enigmas I receive:

Whilst a hid being I pursue,
That lurks in a new shape,
My darling in herself I miss,
And, in my ape, THE APE.

PROLOGUE TO FAULKENER: A TRAGEDY BY WILLIAM GODWIN, 1807.

An author who has given you all delight
Furnished the tale our stage presents to-night.
Some of our earliest tears he taught to steal
Down our young cheeks, and forced us first to feel.
To solitary shores whole years confined,
Who has not read how pensive Crusoe pined?
Who, now grown old, that did not once admire
His goat, his parrot, his uncouth attire,
The stick, due-notched, that told each tedious day
That in the lonely island wore away?
Who has not shuddered, where he stands aghast
At sight of human footsteps in the waste?
Or joyed not, when his trembling hands unbind
Thee, Friday, gentlest of the savage kind?

The genius who conceived that magic tale
Was skilled by native pathos to prevail.
His stories, though rough-drawn and framed in haste,
Had that which pleased our homely grandsires' taste.

His was a various pen, that freely roved
Into all subjects, was in most approved.
Whate'er the theme, his ready Muse obeyed—
Love, courtship, politics, religion, trade—
Gifted alike to shine in every sphere,
Novelist, historian, poet, pamphleteer.

In some blest interval of party-strife,
He drew a striking sketch from private life,
Whose moving scenes of intricate distress
We try to-night in a dramatic dress:
A real story of domestic woe,
That asks no aid from music, verse, or show,
But trusts to truth, to Nature, and *Defoe*.

TO THE POET COWPER, ON HIS RECOVERY FROM AN INDISPOSITION.

WRITTEN SOME TIME BACK.

Cowper, I thank my God that thou art healed.
Thine was the sorest malady of all,
And I am sad to think that it should light
Upon the worthy head; but thou art healed,
And thou art yet, we trust, the destined man,
Born to re-animate the lyre, whose chords
Have slumbered, and have idle lain so long;
To the immortal sounding of whose strings
Did Milton frame the stately-paced verse;
Among whose wires with lighter finger playing
Our elder bard, Spenser, a gentler name,
The lady Muses' dearest darling child,
Enticed forth the deftest tunes yet heard
In hall or bower; taking the delicate ear
Of the brave Sidney, and the Maiden Queen.
Thou, then, take up the mighty epic strain,
Cowper, of England's bards the wisest and the best!

LINES ADDRESSED FROM LONDON, TO SARA AND S. T. C. AT BRISTOL, IN THE SUMMER OF 1796.

WAS it so hard a thing? I did but ask
A fleeting holiday, a little week.
What, if the jaded steer who all day long,
Had borne the heat and burthen of the plough,
When evening came, and her sweet cooling hour,
Should seek to wander in a neighbor copse,
Where greener herbage waved, or clearer streams
Invited him to slake his burning thirst?
The man were crabbed who should say him nay,
The man were churlish who should drive him thence.

A blessing light upon your worthy heads,
Ye hospitable pair! I may not come
To catch, on Clifden's heights, the summer gale;
I may not come to taste the Avon wave;
Or, with mine eye intent on Redcliffe towers,
To muse in tears on that mysterious youth,
Cruelly slighted, who, in evil hour,
Shaped his adventurous course to London walls!

Complaint, be gone! and, ominous thoughts, away!
Take up, my song, take up a merrier strain:
For yet again, and lo! from Avon's vales,
Another minstrel* cometh. Youth endeared,
God and good angels guide thee on thy road,
And gentler fortunes wait the friends I love.

*"From vales where Avon winds, the minstrel came."
COLERIDGE'S *Monody on Chatterton.*

SONNET TO A FRIEND.

FRIEND of my earliest years and childish days,
My joys, my sorrows, thou with me hast shared,
Companion dear, and we alike have fared
(Poor pilgrims we) through life's unequal way;
It were unwisely done, should we refuse
To cheer our path as featly as we may,
Our lonely path to cheer, as travellers use,
With merry song, quaint tale, or roundelay;
And we will sometimes talk past troubles o'er,
Of mercies shown, and all our sickness healed,
And in his judgments God remembering love;
And we will learn to praise God evermore,
For those glad tidings of great joy revealed,
By that sooth messenger sent from above.

SONNET.

THE Lord of Life shakes off his drowsihed,
And 'gins to sprinkle on the earth below
Those rays that from his shaken locks do flow;
Meantime, by truant love of rambling led,
I turn my back on thy detested walls,
Proud city! and thy sons I leave behind,
A sordid, selfish, money-getting kind;
Brute things, who shut their ears when Freedom calls.
I pass not thee so lightly, well-known spire,
That mindest me of many a pleasure gone,
Of merrier days, of love and Islington;
Kindling afresh the flames of past desire.
And I shall muse on thee slow journeying on
To the green plains of pleasant Hertfordshire.

1795.

NOTES.

ENVY.

(Page 1.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*.

THE RIDE.

(Page 4.)

In Mylius' *First Book of Poetry* this little piece is more fully and fittingly rechristened *The First Sight of Green Fields*—a title which one can hardly help supposing to be an afterthought of the original author.

THE PEACH.

(Page 8.)

This piece reappeared in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*.

CHOOSING A NAME.

(Page 9.)

Some lines by Charles Lamb, entitled "Christian Names of Women," which first appeared in the *Athenæum* of March 9, 1833, and which contain playful or tender allusions to several of the same names,—Mary, Joan, Rebecca, and Edith,—seem to indicate him with something approaching absolute certainty as the author of this poem. Any reader carefully comparing the two will, I think, come to the same conclusion.

THE ROOK AND THE SPARROWS.

(Page 12.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*. The reading in the fifth line—

"For suddenly '*twas from him torn*,"

as it appears in the selection edited by me and published by Mr. Pickering in 1872, lest it should mystify any future student, was, let me take this opportunity of confessing, a substitution of my own, made without any violation to the sense, but with no authority either from the original or from Mylius, to get rid of one of those barbarous Cockney rhymes which recur but too often in Mary Lamb's portion of the present book.

This poem is one of those remarkable for a broader and freer tone of morality and a larger tolerance than generally pervades compositions of this kind.

THE BOY AND SNAKE.

(Page 22.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*, but with the omission of lines 5 to 10. There is an illustration to this poem in the original edition.

THE FIRST TOOTH.

(Page 25.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*. This poem is undoubtedly by Mary Lamb, as the last line of it—

"A child is fed with milk and praise,"

is thus quoted (from memory apparently) in Elia's *Popular Fallacies (New Monthly Magazine*, 1826): "*It has been prettily said*, that 'a *babe* is fed with milk and praise.'"

TO A RIVER IN WHICH A CHILD WAS DROWNED.

(Page 27.)

Printed in one of the editions of Mylius' *Poetical Class-Book.*

This poem is undoubtedly by Charles Lamb, for he reprinted it as his own in the collected Edition of his Works in 1818, and it has reappeared in every edition since.

CLEANLINESS.

(Page 30.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*, but with the omission of lines 11 to 14, containing the allusion to palmistry.

GOING INTO BREECHES.

(Page 34.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

NURSING.

(Page 36.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

FEIGNED COURAGE.

(Page 45.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

THE BROKEN DOLL.

(Page 46.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

WRITTEN IN THE FIRST LEAF OF A CHILD'S MEMORANDUM BOOK.

(Page 59.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

MEMORY.

(Page 60.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

THE THREE FRIENDS.

(Page 74.)

This is by far the longest, as it certainly is one of the most memorable pieces in the *Poetry for Children.* Charles Lamb republished it as his own in the Collected Edition of his Works in 1818, making, however, two minute verbal alterations — in the first line altering "girls" to "maids," and in the forty-sixth line, "There's no good" to "Not one good." These two authorized and deliberately made changes render it possible that other variations of text noted in the Mylius versions of some of the poems may, at least in a few instances, be attributable to the writers themselves.

ON THE LORD'S PRAYER.

(Page 83.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

"SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN, AND FORBID THEM NOT, TO COME UNTO ME."

(Page 85.)

This poem closes the first volume in the original edition.

THE MAGPIE'S NEST, OR A LESSON OF DOCILITY.

(Page 87.)

This poem, in the original edition, opens the second volume. The substance of it is printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*, where, however, it is shorn of its second title, cut up into sections which destroy its unity, and for which the original gives no warrant, and otherwise sadly mangled, notably by the omission of the eleventh stanza, containing the starling's speech. An explanatory prose note is, however. added to the Mylius version of the poem, which may have been contributed by the original writer. It runs as follows:—

"I beg to inform my young readers that the magpie is the only bird that builds a top to the nest for her young."

THE BOY AND THE SKYLARK.

(Page 91.)

Here again the Mylius version of this poem is deplorably deficient: two stanzas of the skylark's speech (the eleventh and twelfth of the poem) being entirely omitted. They are among the most poetical in the book, being pitched in a higher key than is usually attempted.

There is an illustration to this poem in the original edition of the book.

THE BEGGAR-MAN.

(Page 101.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

BREAKFAST.

(Page 105.)

Printed in Mylius' *Poetical Class-Book.* This poem was unknown to Mr. Carew Hazlitt when publishing his *Remains of Charles and*

Mary Lamb, but it reappeared in the selection from *Poetry for Children*, published by Mr. Pickering in 1872.

The later portion of the poem, descriptive of "Sleepy Robert," always struck me as singularly amusing in its lax and indulgent morality.

PARENTAL RECOLLECTIONS.

(Page 109.)

I entertain no doubt whatever that these three exquisite stanzas are the work of Charles and not of Mary Lamb; so high a key-note as this is not struck more than once or twice throughout the book. They were probably suggested by one of Coleridge's boys, Hartley or Derwent, the "Pipos" of Lamb's letters.

THE TWO BOYS.

(Page 110.)

This poem is quoted *in extenso* at the end of Elia's *Detached Thoughts on Books and Reading* (*London Magazine*, July, 1822, p. 36), where it is thus introduced:—"There is a class of street-readers, whom I can never contemplate without affection—the poor gentry who, not having wherewithal to buy or hire a book, filch a little learning at the open stalls—the owner, with his hard eye, casting envious looks at them all the while, and thinking when they will have done. Venturing tenderly, page after page, expecting every moment when he shall interpose his interdict, and yet unable to deny themselves the gratification, they 'snatch a fearful joy.' Martin B——— in this way, by daily fragments, got through two volumes of *Clarissa*, when the stall-keeper damped his laudable ambition by asking him (it was in his younger days) whether he meant to purchase the work. M. declares, that under no circumstances of his life did he ever peruse a book with half the satisfaction which he took in those uneasy snatches. *A quaint poetess of our day has moralized upon this*

subject in two very touching but homely stanzas." It is therefore unquestionably the production of Mary Lamb.

It seems very improbable that Lamb, while unconsciously changing a word in citing a single line only from memory of another of his sister's contributions to this work, should have quoted a poem of twenty lines from memory without any variation. It is, therefore, fairly presumable that he transcribed it from the actual book.

THE SISTER'S EXPOSTULATION ON THE BROTHER'S LEARNING LATIN, AND THE BROTHER'S REPLY.

(Page 113.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*. These companion pieces call to mind a sonnet on a similar subject, written by Mary Lamb, which lies buried in an old volume of *Blackwood's Magazine*.[1] It was addressed to Emma Isola, then the ward and pupil of Charles Lamb, and who afterwards became the wife of Edward Moxon.

TO EMMA, LEARNING LATIN, AND DESPONDING.

Droop not, dear Emma, dry those falling tears,
And call up smiles into thy pallid face,
Pallid and careworn with thy arduous race:
In few brief months thou hast done the work of years.
To young beginnings natural are these fears.
A right good scholar shalt thou one day be,
And that no distant one; when even she,
Who now to thee a star far-off appears,
That most rare latinist, the Northern Maid,
The language-loving Sarah[2] of the lake—

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[1] June, 1829 (p. 751).

[2] "Daughter of S. T. Coleridge, Esq., an accomplished linguist in the Greek and Latin tongues, and translatress of a History of the Abipones."—[*Note by Mary Lamb.*]

Shall hail thee sister linguist. This will make
Thy friends, who now afford thee careful aid,
A recompense most rich for all their pains,
Counting thy acquisitions their best gains.
MARY LAMB.

INCORRECT SPEAKING.

(Page 125.)

The cockney rhyme of "Anna" and "manner" would be convincing proof, if other internal evidence were wanting, that this poem is the production of Mary and not of Charles Lamb.

THE BEASTS IN THE TOWER.

(Page 131.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.* For

"Perils and snares on every ground
Like these wild beasts beset us round."

The original edition reads—

"Like these wild beast besets us round,"

and the American edition has preserved and repeated the error. It is so obviously a misprint that we have ventured to correct it in the text.

THE RAINBOW.

(Page 141.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry.*

CLOCK STRIKING. (Page 145.)
WHY NOT DO IT, SIR, TO-DAY? (Page 146.)
HOME DELIGHTS. (Page 147.)

These three poems are omitted in the Boston reprint of *Poetry for Children* published in 1812, a circumstance much to be regretted, as it renders a very pretty volume and a great bibliographical curiosity *after all* an imperfect book.

CLOCK STRIKING.

(Page 145.)

That this poem was written by Charles Lamb a curious parallel rhyme in his acknowledged poem of Hester seems to leave little doubt.

> "I was near her, and saw the girl start
> *With such exquisite wonder, such feelings of pride,*
> *A happiness almost to terror allied,*
> She showed the wound went to her heart."

Compare those in *Hester*—

> " . . . if 'twas not *pride,*
> It was a joy to that *allied.*"

THE COFFEE SLIPS.

(Page 148.)

Printed in Mylius' *Poetical Class-Book.* This poem was unknown to Mr. Carew Hazlitt when publishing his *Inedited Remains of Charles and Mary Lamb;* but it reappeared in the selection from *Poetry for Children* published by Mr. Pickering in 1872.

TIME SPENT IN DRESS.

(Page 155.)

Printed in Mylius' *First Book of Poetry*, but without the second and third stanzas.

QUEEN ORIANA'S DREAM.

(Page 168.)

Charles Lamb acknowledged this poem by reprinting it as his own in his collected works in 1818.

DAVID IN THE CAVE OF ADULLAM.

(Page 179.)

Printed in Mylius' *Poetical Class-Book.* This poem—the last piece in the *Poetry for Children*—is the only one of his sister's that Lamb reprinted when collecting his works in 1818. It may therefore be safely assumed that the previous poem, entitled *David*, describing his adventure with Goliath, is also hers.

PRINCE DORUS.

(Page 181.)

The full title of the original is: "*Prince Dorus; or, Flattery put out of Countenance. A poetical Version of an Ancient Tale. Illustrated with a Series of Elegant Engravings.* Price 2s. 6d. coloured, or 1s. 6d. plain. London. *Printed for M. J. Godwin, at the Juvenile Library, No.* 41, *Skinner-street.* 1811," small square, 8vo. Title, sig. B 2 to B 8, 31 pages of text. The engravings are nine in number, and represent "The Enchanted Cat," "Minon Asleep," "The Transformation," "Prince Dorus and his Maids," "Claribel Carried off," "Visit to the Beneficent Fairy," "Prince Dorus offended," "Truth brought Home," "Self-knowledge obtains its Reward."

ON BEING ASKED TO WRITE IN MISS WESTWOOD'S ALBUM.

(Page 199.)

First printed in the *Athenæum*, January 10, 1846; and again in *Notes and Queries*, 4th S. v. 528 (June 4, 1870), accompanied in the latter case by the following lines by Mary Lamb from the same Album:—

> "Small beauty to your Book my lines can lend,
> Yet you shall have the best I can, sweet friend,
> To serve for poor memorials 'gainst the day
> That calls you from your Parent-roof away.

From the mild offices of Filial life
To the more serious duties of a Wife.
The World is opening to you—may you rest
With all your prospects realized, and blest!—
I, with the Elder Couple left behind,
On evenings chatting, oft shall call to mind
Those spirits of Youth, which Age so ill can miss,
And, wanting you, half grudge your S——n's bliss:
Till mirthful malice tempts us to exclaim
'Gainst the dear Thief who robbed you of your *Name*.

"MARY LAMB.

"*Enfield Chase*, 17th May, 1828."

LINES ADDRESSED TO LIEUT. R. W. H. HARDY.

(Page 200.)

Printed in the *Athenæum*, January 10, 1846. Whether the note to the word "diver" is attributable to the author or to the person who communicated the lines, I am unable to determine.

THE FIRST LEAF OF SPRING.

(Page 201.)

Printed in the *Athenæum*, January 10, 1846, and also, apparently, at an earlier date, in some obscure and fugitive publication of which I have not succeeded in ascertaining the name.

THE APE.

(Page 203.)

These lines appeared in the *London Magazine*, October, 1820, signed with the four asterisks which Lamb was wont to use at that period in his contributions to the *Indicator* and the *Examiner*. They were first included in Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's edition of Lamb's Works, vol. vi.

L. M. was the same Louisa Martin playfully addressed by Lamb in another poem;—"To Louisia M——, whom I used to call 'Monkey'" (*Poetical Works*, ed. 1836, p. 208).

PROLOGUE TO FAULKENER: A TRAGEDY BY WILLIAM GODWIN.

(Page 206.)

Printed in the first, and I suppose the only edition of Godwin's Tragedy; but not hitherto included, I believe, in any volume or collection of Lamb's writings whatsoever. Seven years previously Lamb had written the Prologue to Godwin's play of *Antonio*. It was not, however, printed with the play, which appeared in 1800, but is quoted *in extenso* in one of Lamb's letters to Manning.

TO THE POET COWPER.

(Page 208.)

Printed in the *Monthly Magazine*, December, 1796.

LINES ADDRESSED FROM LONDON TO SARA AND S. T. C.

(Page 209.)

Printed in the *Monthly Magazine*, January, 1797. S. T. C. was of course Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who was then settled with his wife at or in the neighborhood of Bristol.

SONNET TO A FRIEND.

(Page 211.)

Printed in the *Monthly Magazine*, October, 1797.

SONNET.

(Page 212.)

Printed in the *Monthly Magazine*, December, 1797.

THE END.